The Long Island FISHERMAN

50¢

The Largest Weekly Fishing Magazine in the United States!

October 18th, 1979 ★ Volume 14, Number 42 ★ 14th Year of Publishing ★ FIFTY-CENTS

BUNKER DUNKING

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	6:50	7:01	7:41	7:55	7:32	7:48	8:23	8:39	10:54	11:17	10:11	10:30	6:37	6:54	10/18
FRI.	7:29	7:40	8:16	8:32	8:09	8:23	8:58	9:16	11:25	11:44	10:47	11:08	7:17	7:35	10/19
SAT.	8:05	8:18	8:51	9:07	8:44	8:59	9:32	9:54	11:39	11:58	11:24	11:45	7:55	8:14	10/20
SUN.	8:40	8:54	9:24	9:42	9:17	9:32	10:05	10:31	11:52	–	11:59	–	8:35	8:53	10/21
MON.	9:16	9:30	10:00	10:18	9:47	10:07	10:41	11:09	12:16	12:20	12:22	12:36	9:13	9:33	10/22
TUE.	9:51	10:06	10:37	10:56	10:18	10:39	11:17	11:49	12:47	12:56	12:59	1:13	9:53	10:14	10/23
WED.	10:30	10:48	11:15	11:37	10:53	11:21	11:56	–	1:26	1:37	1:41	1:54	10:35	10:58	10/24
THUR.	11:13	11:37	–	12:01	11:35	–	12:33	12:41	2:09	2:24	2:23	2:36	11:21	11:49	10/25

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet ....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

10/3	6:58	6:39
10/8	7:04	6:31
10/13	7:10	6:23
10/18	7:15	6:15
10/23	7:20	6:08
10/28	6:27	5:01

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
10/21	10/28	10/5	10/12

The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	3:05	**9:35**	3:35	**10:00**
Fri.	3:45	**10:15**	4:15	**10:35**
Sat.	4:25	**10:55**	4:50	**11:20**
Sun.	5:05	**11:40**	5:35	**11:55**
Mon.	5:50	—	6:15	**12:30**
Tues.	6:40	**12:50**	7:05	**1:20**
Wed.	7:35	**1:50**	8:00	**2:15**
Thurs.	8:30	**2:45**	8:55	**3:15**

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

Volume 14, Number 42 **October 18th, 1979**

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A lovely young lady poses with the newest addition to the *Johnson* line of outboard motors—the 235 H.P. V-6 engine.

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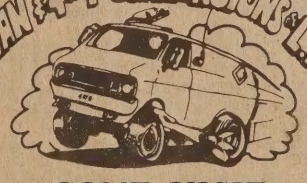
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The Fighting Chair

with Doc Muller

On Saturday, October 13th, the House of Representatives Committee On Science & Technology held a hearing in Huntington on the dumping of dredge spoils in Long Island Sound. At the request of Rep. Jerome Ambro, L.I.F. Editor Dr. William A. Muller prepared a position paper on the topic. The text of that paper follows.

POSITION PAPER ON THE DUMPING OF DREDGE SPOILS IN L.I. SOUND

It is not possible in the short time allotted to us in this presentation to elaborate the data and sequences of logic that would, or should, persuade us not to dump dredge spoils in Long Island Sound. These processes have already occurred in the courts and very well may be reviewed by judicial arbitrators in the future. However, we do have several very clear purposes in being here today. These are, namely, to add our voices to those of so many other concerned citizens present at this and previous public hearings on this subject. Together, the voices of The Long Island Fisherman and The New York Sportfishing Council approach 150,000 strong! We have heard from those voices and we wish to share with you their feelings. Secondly, we are here to explain to you once again why the Long Island Sound is so important to us and the citizens of Long Island.

Although the notice of the hearing and the request for input asks for data to support arguments, we should, nonetheless, begin with the feelings of the 150,000 human beings in our family. Perhaps their opinions are not considered to be data by some, but we believe it is. We believe that it is the function of government and its agencies to respond to the needs and desires of the people they represent and thus, in this light, the opinions of those people should rank as data of the highest priority.

What do the overwhelming number of these voices tell us? They tell us that they do not want dredge spoils dumped in Long Island Sound. They tell us that they boat, swim, fish, and gather shellfish in Long Island Sound. They are justifiably concerned that dredge spoils, rich in heavy metals and other toxic chemicals, will contaminate the water and the seafood they harvest. They tell us of their concern that additional pollution may drive away migrating baitfish and game fish by changing the species diversity of algae and other plankton that serve as the primary level of productivity in the chain of life. They worry that shellfish beds may become contaminated and disappear. What can we tell them? Can we reassure them that these will not be the results of dumping? Unfortunately, we cannot give them reasons for confidence. Indeed, history indicates that their fears are justified. Have not the harbors from which the spoils are to come dreadfully polluted? Have not some of these areas been closed to bathing and shellfishing? Of course they have been polluted and of course the delicate ecology of many harbors has been ruined—possibly beyond the point of redemption.

The voices also offer a very pertinent question about the process of public hearings and the integrity of government function. In a time of general mistrust of government by the public, this opinion has added importance. We are asked repeatedly about why so many hearings have been held on the same subject, since the outcry of public objection has been loud and rife with concern and indignation. Scientists, citizens, commercial harvesters, ecologists, municipal and state government officials have presented countless pages of testimony and data to help explain to the Army Corps of Engineers what their training and experience should have already told them. That is, that dumping in Long Island Sound will be ecologically disastrous and that the people are opposed to it. I have attended this seemingly endless series of meetings and I, too, question the efficacy of these prolonged events which have denied the strong expression of the people. Here we are again and once again the people stand ready to state their case. It is currently a popular belief that we will tire of the process and surrender. Well, we will not tire of it since our futures and the futures of our children are at stake!

Fifteen million people live in areas that border the Sound and they

demand that their habitat be protected. Many of these people make a living from the Sound in a variety of direct and indirect ways. The baymen and other commercial seafood harvesters, boat liveries, beach concessions, and tackle stores employ thousands in a geographical area that traditionally depends, to a large degree, on viable fishing, seafood harvesting, tourism, and restaurants for economic stability. Will these commercial activities be affected? Certainly, they must! Dirty water, littered or discolored beaches, contaminated seafood, changes in migratory patterns of game fish, and a general decline in water quality will discourage water-related activities and reduce both the interest of the people in participating and the size and quality of the harvest which, in turn, affects restaurants, hotels, motels, retail stores, gasoline stations, as well as charter boat and party boat activities.

Long Island Sound is a body of water consisting of 930 square miles, with an average depth of about ninety feet west of the Mattituck Sill and 300' east of the Mattituck Sill. Because of the vastness of the Sound, there is a temptation to regard the Sound as a sump—a place where almost anything can be disposed of and in almost any quantity. We once thought of the ocean in such terms, but in recent decades we have learned the hard lessons of inaccurate thinking. Cousteau warned us, yet we continued to dump waste oil, obsolete munitions, radioactive wastes, and the wastes of chemical and biological warfare research. These materials have polluted and, in some cases where dangerous gases and radioactive wastes have leaked through their canisters, lives have been threatened. The planned dumping in Long Island Sound doesn't even offer us the faint hope of canister containment. Instead, it will be openly and freely discarded so that winds, waves, storms, and currents can spread it throughout the Sound.

We have been asked to tell of the recreational importance of the Sound. In addition to swimming and boating, recreational fishing is an extensive and valuable activity in Long Island Sound. The following species are common and are abundantly harvested in Long Island Sound. We hope, since I am a marine biologist and the organizations I represent today are experts in recreational fishing, that this list will be regarded by the Army Corps of Engineers as data. Game fish include bluefish, striped bass, weakfish, porgy, fluke, flounder, sea bass, blackfish, and whiting (silver hake). In addition, other game fish such as albacore, false albacore, bonito, and some species of shark are also harvested, but in lesser quantity. Smaller species such as tom cod, butterfish, and lafayettes can also be taken and youngsters fishing from small craft and docks frequently encounter these species which serve as important learning experiences towards developing their skills as fishermen and provide countless hours of entertainment. However, one must look beyond those species which are harvested for food and sport since many other finfish which serve as food for larger species also are found in the Sound in large quantities. Menhaden, or bunker, are very valuable both ecologically as a major food source for weakfish, striped bass, and bluefish; and as bait to be sold for recreational fishing. Mullet, herring, sand eels, spearing, and killies are also abundant as prey species and virtually all of the listed game fish will feed on at least one of the prey species at one time or another.

It is well understood by marine ecologists and fisheries biologists that the abundance and movements of baitfish have a dominant influence on the abundance and movements of game fish. Furthermore, since many species of baitfish are dependent upon specific plankton species composition for their food, that any change in the abundance and/or species diversity of the primary producers will result in a decrease to baitfish stocks and shifts in the relative abundance of major species. In a paper by Patten, "Species Diversity in Raritan Bay," conclusive proof establishes the relationship between pollution and shifts in species composition.

The recreational importance of Long Island Sound cannot, and must not, be under-estimated. We must remember that millions of people moved to Long Island following World War II in order to find a better environment for themselves and their children. Principal among their interests and concerns was the proximity to beaches, boating, and fishing opportunities. It is, therefore, incumbent upon all of us—citizen and public official alike—to defend and protect this environment. Dumping presents a clear threat to maintaining maximum recreational opportunities in Long Island Sound and the travesty of repeated discussion and re-discussion is an insult to us as citizens. We applaud the decision of the House Committee on Science and Technology to hold this hearing in order to gain the views of our people firsthand without the contaminating analysis of the Army Corps of Engineers. We are grateful to Congressman Ambro for his interest and his efforts to move the matter to an appropriate conclusion.

Yet another crucial issue is the effect of dumping dredge spoils on the water quality of Long Island Sound. Actually, recreational value and

(Continued on page 38.)

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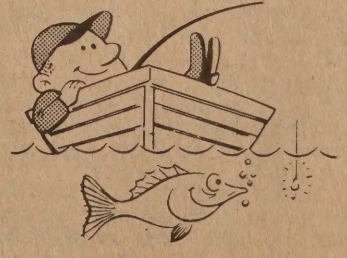

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FISH TALK with Dr. William A. Muller

SUMMARY THEORIES ON STRIPED BASS

WHAT? NO BASS? The period between the mid-Fifties and the early Seventies spoiled East Coast bass fishermen. During that period, there were more good to excellent year classes of striped bass than between 1900 and 1950! We became used to having large quantities of bass around of all sizes, and since these good year classes were not restricted to any one spawning ground, all areas enjoyed fine fishing. Stripers have a glamour all their own because they grow so large and are strong fighting fish. Since they are an inshore species and available to surf fishermen and small boat fishermen alike, the species has traditionally attracted much attention from anglers. Many decades ago, the rich and famous belonged to striped bass fishing clubs that constructed "bass stands" at productive spots where hired hands would chum with lobster pieces for hours so that the rich boys could come along and catch big bass. Of course, this kind of decadence has become a thing of the past, but the search for the elusive bass continues. Therefore, when the stocks began to decline a few years ago scientists, commercial fishermen, sport fishermen—and the general citizen, for that matter, began to ask why?

THEORIES, THEORIES, THEORIES!!!! It wasn't long after the decline became evident that the theories began to be thrown about like leaves in an October storm. What has become of these theories? Are any of them viable? Have any been proven to be correct? What about the future of the species? Will a failure of the Chesapeake stock to spawn successfully become a permanent trend so that eventually there won't be enough bass around to make the search for them a likely proposition? In this week's column we will attempt to explore existing theories and answer these questions. We doubt that every idea will be represented and so if we miss one here and there, excuse us. Rather, we hope to present what we know and then we would like to hear from you. Tell us what you think will be the future of the species.!

SUNSPOTS! One of the most intriguing theories ever presented was the notion that sunspots affect the ability of the bass to spawn successfully. Some very limited evidence helps to support this notion even today, after so many have insisted on denigrating the theory to the point of almost total obscurity. Scientists have found that exposure to ultra-violet light will increase mortality in the eggs of bass because the eggs float close to the surface where they are vulnerable to the lethal rays of the sun. When sunspots' activity is increased, more ultra-violet radiation reaches the earth. Some folks, including us and the Salt Water Sportsman people, have attempted to graph both the history of striped bass spawning and sunspot activity. These graphs showed considerable correlation. Furthermore, poor spawning success in Chesapeake Bay was mirrored during the early and mid-Seventies in all other areas, including the West Coast bass that were transplanted there in the late 1880s. This period also corresponds roughly with an increase in sunspot activity and a period of colder winters in the northern hemisphere. Is the sunspot theory viable? Some say no, yet the circumstantial evidence has not yet been totally disputed by new evidence. Frankly, we do not know whether the graphs, area spawning correlations, and effects of ultra-violet radiation are coincidence or evidence. I continue to believe that there is some kind of correlation, although I freely admit that it may be indirect. That is, sunspots affect some aspect of the earth which, in turn, affects the success of bass spawning. Certainly, we would like to see more research to clarify this issue.

PCBs AFFECT BASS SPAWNING! Does the presence of this toxic chemical in bass tissue change the way they spawn? Or the success of spawning? Or the success of hatching? Or the success of newly hatched fry? Some evidence suggests that PCBs affect bass and other fish in ways similar to humans. The chemical in humans can produce symptoms that vary from skin lesions to neuromuscular dysfunction. Thus, bass severely affected might very well have difficulty spawning or swimming, or in pre-spawning conditioning. However, even if PCBs produce all of the effects in bass that some have attributed to it, tests have shown that relatively few bass contain levels that can be considered dangerous either to humans or the fish themselves. In fact, the Hudson stock has been most contaminated, while the problem remains minimal in the Chesapeake Bay complex. Now, since the Hudson stocks have experienced some reasonable spawning success in the last three or four years, we would be hard pressed to support the idea that PCB contamination is responsible for the recent decline in the fishery. Furthermore, if few specimens contain high levels and since we know that relatively few individuals can parent a very large year class, the concept of PCBs affecting spawning can only be dismissed rather quickly. Although I am an advocate of more and more research, I don't believe that this one even warrants superficial study.

HERBICIDES ARE TO BLAME! There are those who have suggested that the additional use of herbicides in the Chesapeake area, coupled with rainfall and spring runoff from the rains, has increased the level of the plant killers in the waters of the area. They point out that algae, seaweeds, and shellfish productivity is down since the herbicides have been on the increase. They also point out that there has been a shift in the type of microscopic algae that predominates in the water. Since the young bass rely on the plankton for food in their early stages of life and since a shift in the abundance of organisms at the bottom of the food chain will cause the entire ecological balance to shift, they argue that the herbicides are to blame for the decline of the bass. We have little comment on this one and we await more study and data. Clearly something has happened to the entire community of the Chesapeake complex, but what is not known is the cause. Again, one cannot be sure whether it has been coincidence or cause. Only through research will we be able to prove what has caused the shift. We must ask this question, especially since the use of herbicides in all areas of the country has been on the increase and yet similar negative effects have not been recorded—at least not yet!

WINTER WEATHER AND GOOD NUTRITION. Remember how your mother would always nag at you to eat your vegetables and other things that were good for you, but tasted terrible? Well, the mother of a juvenile striped bass doesn't tell her offspring to eat the right kinds of foods; but according to Dr. Douglas Martin of the University of Maryland, if the right foods aren't available to newly hatched bass and, in fact, throughout the early stages of life, the survival rate of fry is poor. The original presentation that the quality of nutrition is a major factor in regulating the size of striped bass stocks through the survival of juveniles goes back to 1914, but Dr. Martin's recent research has provided additional evidence in support of this point of view. Dr. Martin is quick to point out, however, that there are probably many other factors such as chemical pollution, predation, etc.,

that also affect the success of year classes of striped bass. Still, he feels that his group is headed in the right direction. The research program has been funded by a new group called the Save the Bass Fund which is based in Rhode Island. As reported by our sister publication, The New England Fisherman, the group headed by Bob Greene became disenchanted with the failure of State and Federal attempts to move quickly and solve the striped bass problem. Therefore, the group raised $3,500 and donated it for Dr. Martin's research. An additional $3,500 was provided by Sea Grant and these funds got the project rolling.

PREDICTING SUCCESS IN STRIPED BASS SPAWNING? An early plus of Dr. Martin's research has been the feeling among the scientists that perhaps they can predict whether or not a given spawning will be very successful. According to the scientists, cold winters with abundant ice will increase the spring runoff volume, thus adding more nutrients to the estuary than would be expected if the runoff of melting ice and snow were meager. The additional nutrients should encourage greater plankton reproduction which, in turn, should provide more food for the newly hatched bass. Dr. Martin predicted, based upon less than normal spring runoff, that the success of this year's spawning would not be good and in fact, field reports indicate that 1979 was yet another poor year in the Chesapeake Bay complex. The theory becomes very consistent with observed phenomena since several hundred miles separates the Chesapeake Bay and the Hudson River and it is very possible that the New York area could experience heavy spring runoff, while the Chesapeake runoff was much less due to less snow and ice. Since the Chesapeake is south of New York, a snowstorm here could be a simple rainstorm there, and a heavy precipitation here could be matched by only small amounts of rain or snow there. In winter, coastal storms tend to be spawned in that area and frequently they do not develop to full potency until they are near New York. If the amount of available nutrients is the key factor among many other affecting factors, then we might well expect varying success of spawning among various stocks.

HOWEVER! It is our understanding from talking with scientists in the field that not only is the quantity of the nutrients important, but also the quality which, in turn, affects the type of plankton species that "bloom"; that is, not all types of plankton provide the same benefits towards growth and maturation. Specific species of plankton are required for maximum success. We think that Dr. Martin's research is

Continued on page 9.

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NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

The Mackerel FMP: (continued)

Last week, I expressed my opposition to that portion of Amendment #1 to the Mid-Atlantic Council's Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Mackerel, which opens up the foreign fishery once again. Under the present plan, the foreigners have an allocation of 1,200 metric tons, which is divided up among them as by-catch. Their allocation of 4,000 metric tons in the Amendment will still amount to nothing more than a liberalized by-catch. However, there is another 6,000 tons held in reserve that will also go to the foreigners if it appears that U.S. fishermen will not take it themselves.

Though I am basically opposed to ever seeing the foreign fleets involved in any fishery for a species which is important to the recreational sector, I am particularly disturbed about this particular amendment because the figures upon which the increased allocation is based are so uncertain. As noted last week, the autumn survey of the 1978 year class of mackerel indicated that an exceptional amount of fish were available. Yet, the spring survey didn't find these fish. Indeed, it came up with some of the lowest figures ever recorded for this species. Despite this, NMFS has just brushed aside the spring survey results and insists that we will benefit from that '78 year class next spring.

They may well be right; but after years of steadily declining mackerel fishing, I'd rather see the fish first before giving away any portion to the foreign fleets. Party boat skippers along the mid-Atlantic coast have been particularly hard hit by the mismanagement of this fishery over the past fifteen years. During that period, our bureaucratic bunglers were giving the fishery away to foreigners in ICNAF, and even three years ago were still accepting inflated foreign estimates of the mackerel population—though our own scientists were coming up with figures that showed the standing stock to be at historic low levels. The net result has been several springs of relatively poor fishing along the mid-Atlantic coast and a significant financial loss to the captains who depend on mackerel for some early spring income. Whereas there used to be a good month of mackerel fishing in any given area along the coast, this year there was only two weeks—and even that was somewhat spotty.

Stock estimates are a tricky business under the best of circumstances. For instance, the 1977 year class was estimated to be 709 and 813 million fish at Age 1, based on the autumn and spring surveys. However, the following spring survey indicated an Age 2 population of the '77 year class at only 94 million. Once again, the scientists just choose to ignore the second spring survey (which would indicate that the actual Age 1 population was only 126 million fish) and are using 700 million for the Age 1 figure. Therefore, the increased optimum yield for next season is based on the assumption that the spring '79 survey (our latest information) is wrong and that previous surveys were right—and that the young fish sampled in those surveys have survived at normal rates. It seems to me that's a lot of assumptions to be made about a fishery that's in historically bad shape!

I see no reason why the optimum yield should be set so high that a "surplus" results. If we were still working on the old concept of maximum sustained yield, the Council would probably have no choice. However, the optimum yield concept provided that social and economic factors must be taken into account. This includes the requirements of any recreational fishery involved. It's hard for those not familiar with the sportfisheries to accept the fact that a considerable surplus, by commercial standards, must be present in order for hook and line gear to be effective in catching just a very small proportion. That's particularly the case with a schooling fish such as the mackerel. In order to have a successful season, the schools must not only be large, but must also be closely spaced and within a reasonable distance from the beach. Without an "oversupply," it's very unlikely that we'll see that kind of mackerel fishery. In my opinion, a proper reading of optimum yield must take that factor into account; and if that is done, there will not be any surplus to be allocated to the foreign fleets next season—other than the current 1,200 metric tons for by-catch.

It's beyond me why so many people in our government feel that we have to lean over backwards to please the Russians and other foreigners whose overfishing brought about the present sad situation. I, for one, feel that they can wait their turn until every American sport and commercial fisherman is satisfied that he's catching mackerel as well as he did in the years before excessive exploitation resulted in American fishermen being left "holding the bag." You'll get your chance to express your opinion at the public hearings to be held at the following sites:

October 22—Holiday Inn, Route 25, Riverhead, L.I.

October 18—Asbury Park Pavilion, So. Asbury & Ocean Ave., Asbury Park, N.J.

October 19—Golden Eagle Motel, PhiladelphiaAve. on the Beach, Cape May, N.J.

October 15—Dutch Inn, Great Island Rd., Narragansett (Galilee), R.I.

All meetings start at 7PM.

If you can't make one of the meetings, submit written comments to Mr. John C. Bryson, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Room 2115,

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A careful reading of the Draft Proposed Regulations is also advised. Under "Prohibitions," it is stated that it is unlawful for any person to "use any vessel for the taking, catching, harvesting, or landing of any Atlantic mackerel (except for personal use), unless the vessel has a valid permit issued pursuant to this Part on board the vessel." In other words, if you catch mackerel beyond three miles and sell them without having a boat permit and complying with all the reporting requirements, you'll be in violation of this management plan! There is no fee for the permits.

The Squid Plan

As squid themselves aren't the basis of any sportfishery, most anglers don't pay much attention to the fishery management plan for loligo and illex squid. However, these species play a very important role in predator/prey relationships—a subject about which we will have very little information. Squid are also very highly prized as bait for species ranging from porgies and fluke, up the line to giant tuna and swordfish. High population levels keep the cost of bait down, though there seems to be little hope that squid prices will stay in the "bait range" much longer. Squid bring high prices overseas, and American commercial fishermen are rapidly developing foreign markets.

The Council is taking a conservative approach and keeping the foreign allocations at reasonably low levels. A reserve is also included, in case the rapidly expanding U.S. commercial fishery is able to take even more than presently anticipated. It is further planned to combine the squid and butterfish management plans as soon as the Secretary of Commerce gets finished sitting on the butterfish plan. Squid and butterfish are taken at the same time in the offshore fisheries. Unlike the mackerel plan, I have no objections to the Council's course of action in connection with squid.

Fish Talk: STRIPERS
(Continued from page 6.)

exciting and we hope that his group can continue to find funding to complete the study. It is research like this that will ultimately give us the questions that we have hungered for, for so many years.

SUMMARY! In short, there are many theories and some still hold out hope for the future. We will probably discover, when more data is available, that there are one or two key factors and many others that are accessory. Thus, if the key factors alone are in place, there will be a fair to good year class; while if the key and accessory factors are **all** at optimum levels, we will witness an outstanding year class.

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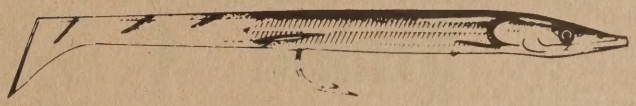

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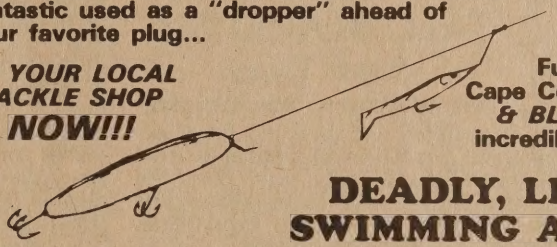

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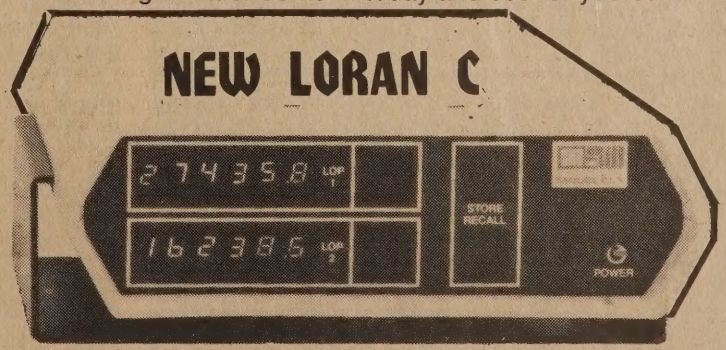

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Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

FALL BLACKFISH Part Two

ast week's column discussed several important quirks pertaining to blackfish. It was chiefly written for the benefit of newcomers to the sport of blackfishing lest they be led astray by unthinking fishermen who, when asked for pointers on blackfishing, inform them that there's nothing to it. With misinformation such as this so readily available, it is not surprising we have so many disgruntled blackfishermen in our midst. And because of this, it is my hope that this concluding article will set the novice on the path to more and better blackfish. Therefore, this week we'll go into baits, rigging, and tackle, as promised; and of most importance, how to hook our chisel-toothed friend—which is no mean accomplishment. I say this, knowing full well that while the newcomer may be aware of the pitfalls and with a little intelligent thought, overcome them, he is still not out of the woods. It is when the moment of truth arrives—that actual instant to which all preparation and planning have led: the sticking of that thin, curved bit of tempered steel inside the black's tough mouth—only then does the fisherman find it avails him naught if he allows this pugnacious character to beat him at his own game; which it certainly will do if given half a chance.

Because the blackfish is like no other bottom feeder in our area, perhaps it is best if we slow down a bit and take an in-depth look at this downy bird. I have always been of the firm conviction that we fishermen are better off when we learn as much as possible about our quarry. And I hope I'm not going to bore you with this. If so, I apologize beforehand.

Fortunately for the dedicated angler, blackfish are widespread. Their coastal range is fairly extensive, running from the Virginia Capes to Nova Scotia. We local fishermen are indeed lucky, for the black's greatest abundance is from Long Island to New Jersey.

Blackfish aren't considered a migratory species, such as cod or mackerel, but it has been established that they do have definite inshore and offshore movements, which are governed at all times by a need for cool water temperatures. They are seldom found in large numbers beyond the one hundred foot zone.

Most offshore blacks seem to favor the sixty foot range in spring and fall, but this is not a hard, fast rule. Should your fishing area contain only one wreck or rock pile in, let' say, eighty feet of water, there you will find your blackfish. But if they have a choice, they will seek the shallower area. (In contrast, sea bass, for instance, always seek the deepest water. Who says there isn't much to know about the bottom fishing game?)

North of Long Island, however, blackfish are found inshore all summer long, the reason being, of course, that these waters remain cool enough for comfort and no offshore movement is necessary.

Because blackfish are so widespread, they often go under more than one name. Throughout Long Island and New Jersey areas, the name blackfish is common; but in New England, our friend is called tautog—its old, long-established American Indian name. However, in the Chesapeake Bay area, one is apt to hear such names as black porgy, big-lipped chub, common chub, saltwater chub, moll, and white chin. To the fishery scientist, the name tautoga onitis keeps the record straight.

So, for us, blackfish is its name, but at times even this descriptive name can be deceiving as the fish often range from dull black to greenish black, or brownish above, with more or less distinct, irregular dark bars or blotches. These bars and blotches are most noticeable in immature fish. In fact, scientists recognize two color patterns: one being plain black, and the other having irregular blackish or brownish bars on a pale background.

And yet with all this, fishermen would find it difficult to mistake a blackfish, as its stubby, muscular body is shared by no other local fish. Nature has designed this fish for living around reefs, old wreckage, rock piles, ledges, and pilings around decaying piers and wharves, and she has done her job well.

Wherever barnacles, mussels, and various crustaceans of suitable size are found, there you will find blackfish. Its skin is tough and slippery, enabling the fish to swim in, out, and around these cluttered areas with ease. The scales are deeply embedded in this tough hide, as any fisherman who has attempted to remove them will attest. While not a schooling fish, blackfish have the annoying habit (from the fisherman's viewpoint, of course) of browsing over a selected feeding area much like a flock of sheep. Should the angler miss just such a spot by several feet, few will be caught. (An instance of this was given in Part One.)

The average blackfish caught in local waters will weigh between one and two pounds, although much larger fish can be expected in a good day's fishing. Eight and ten pounders are not uncommon, especially throughout Long Island Sound, the Montauk area, and in Rhode Island waters. The U. S. National Museum had, at one time, a commercially caught black weighing twenty-two-and-a-half pounds and thirty-six-and-a-half inches long. This record holder was taken in 1876 in New York waters. (Cholera Bank, I've been told.) I believe this record has been broken over the years by fishermen unaware of its existence.

June is the big spawning month in Long Island and New Jersey waters. When water temperatures are most favorable (68° to 72°), it is common to see scores of mature blacks gamboling near the surface at this time. Artie Leidecker and I witnessed this some years ago off Sea Bright. The fish seemed fearless and I had no trouble lowering a gaff handle and pushing the largest about as if they were toys. All around us were hundreds of blacks, large and small, busily chasing the females and working the surface to a froth. It is said no female is allowed to return to the bottom until all her eggs have been expelled. I believe it. It was quite a sight.

Depending upon the size of each female, eggs often number in the hundreds of thousands; the larger the fish, naturally, the more eggs it is capable of producing. The eggs are buoyant, have no oil globule like so many other fish, and are about 1/25'' in diameter. They hatch in forty-two to forty-five hours, depending, of course, upon water temperature, and the infant blackfish measures slightly less than one-eighth inch. Undoubtedly, many perish under adverse weather conditions, as blackfish are highly susceptible to severe fluctuations in water temperatures.

There is much more to be told about blackfish: their rate of growth, how and when those prominent teeth are formed, etc., etc.; but I better quit now while I'm ahead, for I have no wish to bore you. Some day we may go into more detail, but for now it is enough to know that blackfish are indeed unusual fish.

Because of their feeding requirements, you will find few blackfish over open bottom and I wouldn't waste my time in such locations. As noted before, the place to look for old chisel-tooth is around bottom obstructions. The more there are of these, the better your chances—especially for the larger fish. Indeed, the larger fish are often found in the most cluttered sections of the area you are fishing. Dedicated blackfishermen who specialize in bulldog blackfish know this and care not how many rigs and sinkers they lose in these places. The name of the game for these fellows is big blackfish, and the bigger, the better. They know that when party boat fishing, the pool they win will more than compensate for lost terminal tackle. It is a specialized fishing and should not be attempted until needed skills are acquired beforehand.

And to attain these needed skills, you've got to use the correct tackle. For inshore fishing, a medium-weight

conventional rod and a reel filled with twenty pound mono will suffice. Light spinning tackle is out, for rarely will it supply the oomph and power necessary to hook and start a big black from its lair. Even a small fish will prove difficult to handle in deep water when using this light tackle. Not that this isn't sporting when it is accomplished—it certainly is that; but the difficulty is in trying to hook the fish and get it started before it can pour on the power and dive for the obstruction and safety.

As for fishing in deep water areas when party boat fishing the offshore grounds, and dunking bait in such places as Long Island Sound, my choice always leans to rugged conventional gear. Nothing as heavy as codfishing tackle, though. However, you should use a rod with backbone—one that is stiff, yet light enough not to become tiring.

A matching conventional reel, equipped with a dependable star drag, and capable of holding at least one hundred fifty yards of thirty pound good quality mono is important in these deep-water areas. Because you can expect to become snagged frequently (if this isn't happening, you're not fishing in the right place), you'll find good grade mono will better stand chafing on the obstructions than low-quality stuff. Your initial purchase may be a few pennies more, but you'll salvage a higher percentage of your rigs and save many an outsized that might have parted the cheaper mono.

We come now to the proper hook—a subject of interest to all dedicated fishermen.

Say what you will about the correct hook for blackfish, most experienced blackfishermen insist upon using the Virginia style. With that, I agree wholeheartedly. This hook, because of its strong shank, short biting offset barb and hollow point, practically anchors itself in the black's small, tough mouth with minimum effort on the angler's part. It's the **only** hook for the dedicated blackfisherman.

You'll find that for fishing inshore waters (bays, etc.) a #6 will do the trick. For those offshore, deep-water areas, a #5 will do fine, although some fellows try the slightly larger #4. If Virginia hooks are unobtainable in your tackle shop (which is something I've yet to see), substitutes in appropriate sizes such as Sproat, Claw, or Beak styles will do. Just be sure these hooks have regular shanks for best results.

Two hooks tied tandem style and placed just above a suitable bank sinker can be used, providing obstructions aren't too sticky; otherwise, one hook tied in about two inches above the sinker will produce with less heartache.

Anything that has or has had a shell wrapped around it makes good blackfish bait. Green crabs, china-back fiddlers, blue claws, calico or lady crabs (known as the common sand crab) are all good baits in the fall. I would shy away from sliced skimmer because of the abundance of bergalls in good blackfish areas. These industrious bait thieves will make short work of it.

All hard-shelled crabs except fiddlers should be prepared by removing the top shell, breaking off the legs close to the body and cut into two or more pieces, depending upon size. Some fellows use a whole green crab for areas where they know bulldog blackfish exist.

The hook should be run through the crab (whole or pieces, it matters not), and the point exposed on the opposite side. When using fiddlers, I find it best to leave the hook inside the body. This small crab is fragile and doing this helps to keep it alive longer and, therefore, more attractive.

We come now to the part all this has been leading up to: getting that fish in the bucket.

The reason the beginning blackfisherman is not as successful as the experienced angler is because he flails away at every bite felt. The blackfish is a cautious creature, ever on the alert. You cannot get it interested in your bait if you are going to strike back at every bergall bite. The rule is to let that bait lie still. This takes some doing on the part of the inexperienced fisherman, but it must be done.

Blackfish approach a bait warily, nip at it a few times with their canine-like front teeth, and if all seems well, will pass it to a second set of teeth located near the throat. These are known as crushers and are used to masticate the hard shell of its victims. If you flail away at the fish before this happens, it is goodbye blackfish. At best, you will have a lightly lip-hooked fish, which isn't too bad if the fish is small; but if it is large, you will be lucky indeed to land it. What usually happens, though, is that the fish spits out the bait and will not again return unless the partial bait is reeled in and renewed.

When your bait is passed back to the crushers, the hook is felt, and it is at this precise moment when you will be rewarded for your efforts with an unmistakable strong yank. **Now** is the time to set the hook—hard! Heavy-handed methods are needed to start the fish away from the many tackle-fouling obstructions. This is the crucial moment in blackfishing and is the reason many good-sized blackfish never reach the deck. If the fish is truly large, brute force may be necessary to accomplish this. If you fail here and the fish is given its head, it will invariably attempt to dive for the nearest obstruction. But once you've got the fish in the clear, the crucial moment has passed and the fish is yours, for seldom does a hook pull free of the black's tough jaws. Be prepared for a good scrap and have a net handy for any large black brought to the surface. Many big blackfish are lost at boatside when the frenzied fish parts the line. Don't allow this to happen to you!

This concludes the two-part series on fall blackfish. What you have just read are the basics known by all expert blackfishermen. They must be mastered before any angler can expect to be a consistent blackfish producer. Blackfishing isn't easy by a long shot. But you can make it easier by using the proper fishing methods.

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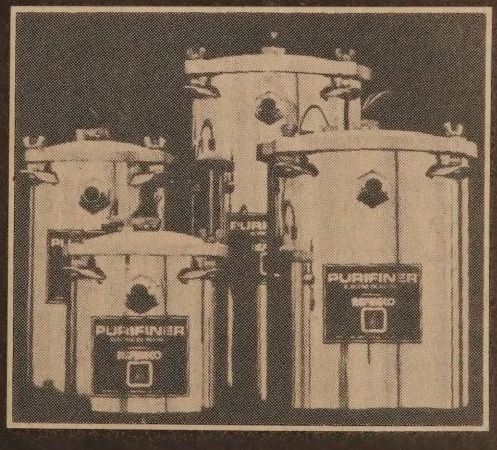

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t the time I was informed there were fish being taken in the Fire Island surf, my first reaction was to disregard the report. Small bluefish had been taken for sometime from the Democrat Point area, but this was October—a time when most surfmen were seeking bigger and better prey before the bulk of the fall migration passed our shores. Past experience showed that the bar in front of the Tower produced a run of game fish each autumn; but this year hordes of young blue devils seemed to dominate the area. "Sure, there are loads of small blues," Jack insisted, "but along with the blues are some nice bass and weaks." It was just a matter of hanging in there until the more prized fish could get a shot at the lure before the aggressive blues impaled themselves on the hook. All of which raises one point: if small fish are attracted to an area for an extended period of time, the conditions which drew the smaller fish are likely to entice larger fish as well.

Each year as the schools of migrants flow along Long Island's South Shore, certain areas—because of their geographic contours—tend to hold sufficient quantities of bait to cause the predators to pause in their journey to take advantage of the opportunities afforded them. The bar located in the vicinity of the Robert Moses water tower is one of these locations.

As most surfcasters know, land masses subject to the fury of lashing winds and pounding surf are not stable. In years past, when surfmen had the Tower at their backs they knew they were in the right spot. Last year, the productive area was further east. Most of last year's catch was made along the beach on the west side of Parking Field #4. The exact location for the present season cannot be foreseen as of this writing, but one thing is certain: it will take place within the shadow of the water tower at Robert Moses State Park.

Pinpointing the arrival of these dawdling schools is a bit more difficult since weather conditions will greatly affect the route and speed by which these fish travel. In '76, teen bass and large blues hit this area in mid-October and produced lively surf action until the twenty-fifth. Last year, the bulk of activity took place more towards the end of October. At any rate, the second half of October is the time to keep this area honest.

The fall season is a difficult time to check out areas for the expected arrival of fish since there are so many opportunities and likely places to fish. Now with gas prices over the dollar-a-gallon mark, those surfmen routinely making the trek to points further east in past years might be looking for fish closer to home. Unless one is fortunate enough to have access to a reliable grapevine, frequent visits to this close-in area will be rewarding.

One of the more attractive elements of this location is that the area is centered in a State Park and open to all. Beach buggies are not required; in fact they are banned on this section of beach. Not even a free permit is required, for this is primarily daylight fishing; therefore the night fishing permit for the State Parks is not needed. A short time before dawn, the barricades are removed and Parking Field #3 is open to all. If you desire to fish in the late afternoon, you should leave the lot by darkness or you will be subject to a parking ticket.

Surfmen wishing to fish during the night can park in Parking Field #2 as long as they display the night fishing permit in their windshield. Obviously, the walk east to the Tower is much longer from #2, but by working the beach en route the hike is less arduous.

From dusk to dawn, if surf conditions warrant, the larger swimming plugs are most often used. The seven inch RedFins and Rebels, in both the sinking and floating models, should be a basic part of an angler's tackle—although many surfmen prefer the metal-lipped swimmers such as the Atom 40s and Junior, or the Danny and Super Strike. The color white is always a popular choice, but with the new moon period taking place in the latter part of the month, black—or at least dark plugs—should be included in an angler's equipment. The baitfish at this time of the season are usually full-grown; therefore, the use of larger plugs will provide greater casting range while matching the bait more closely.

If the night is not conducive to flinging these awkward plugs, the added weight and better balance of the darters or bottle plugs will enable a surfcaster to reach fishable waters when moderately adverse conditions prevail. It would be better to wait until dawn, at which time the ruffled surf can be worked to better advantage with substantial top-water plugs or tin. The three-and-a-half ounce Gibbs Polaris, the two-and-three-quarter ounce Gibbs Pencil Popper, or weighted conventional poppers will cut through a stiff, onshore wind permitting a surfman with average capabilities and sturdy tackle to reach deeper water.

When brisk onshore winds are encountered, the fish are often tight along the beach. At such times, it is necessary to only cast your lure behind the breakers. When fishing during such adverse conditions, the surfman has only a short period of time in which to work his plug before the lure is caught by the crashing waves and tumbled uselessly towards the beach.

One method used by knowledgeable surfmen to lengthen the working time of lures during such instances is to keep the arch of his cast low and start the retrieve as soon as the plug hits the water. In this way, precious time and distance are not lost by the need to reel in slack line and the necessity of getting a popping plug that does not float back on the surface where it can be activated. On many occasions, the practice of not permitting the line to slacken when the lure hits the water will enable the angler to set the hook on fish striking at the splash.

If difficulty is encountered in casting and working top-water plugs, the switch to tins is the obvious choice. Normally, the selection of such popular lures as the Hopkins and Kastmasters will serve the purpose, but on those occasions when fierce cross winds or a severe cross sweep is found, heavy narrow tins of the J-8 type are used to better advantage. The flatter tins are more affected by the wind and water currents; whereas the slender squids can be worked slowly close to the bottom where the majority of the fish lie.

In late October and November, the predominant winds are from a northerly direction. Since you will be facing south when fishing the Tower area, the adverse conditions described above are not frequently found. The heavier surface lures can be dispensed with and replaced by the cheaper and equally effective poppers similar to the Atom striper Swiper. Chrome, white, and blue are the most favored colors when the water is clear, but when the water turns murky a switch to yellow or orange is preferred.

A few of the heavier plugs should still be carried, even though the sea is calm, for occasionally the inshore waters can be infested with the small and more active fish, while their larger brethren lie at a greater distance from the beach. By casting as far as possible, the chance of taking a large fish is increased, while still allowing the lure to be worked through the area infested with the rats.

Occasionally, the game fish can be seen breaking water in their pursuit of the hapless bait, but most often the area must be worked carefully in order to locate the fish. At times such as this, it is wise to use tin, allowing the lure to sink and retrieving it slowly along the bottom. There are no obstructions to be found in this area on which the lure could become snagged. The tin should be dragged slowly through the sand with periodic twitches of the rod tip creating puffs of sand which is

intended to attract the attention of the lurking predators.

The predominant species at this time in this area is bluefish. Therefore, wire leaders and a pair of pliers should be part of an angler's equipment. Fishermen intent on increasing their chances of hooking a striper can dispense with the wire, but will suffer a greater risk in having the lure bitten off by the sharp teeth of the blues, for they will frequently try to snatch a lure out of another fish's mouth.

If memory serves me correctly, the more productive fishing was to be had during high water, with dawn and dusk being the better time of day. Anglers desiring to fish this area, but unable to be on the beach at this time can be comforted by the knowledge that some fine catches of bass and bluefish were made last year during other tides, and in the late morning hours.

It is during these midday hours when an angler will find more space to fight his fish or to work his lure in any manner he chooses. The dawn and dusk periods are often the scene of elbow-to-elbow fishing conditions which detracts from the sport, for any fish hooked must be fought with a tightened drag or fouled lines will result. Occasionally, a strong cross sweep is encountered—normally east to west—which necessitates walking any decent fish along the beach. Veteran surfmen, upon seeing an angler trying to stay opposite his fish will reel in and give way until the danger of fouling the engaged line has cleared his area.

Waders and possibly a top are required, especially when fishing in a crowd, for most surfmen prefer to wade as deep into the wash as practical. A person casting from behind a row of boot-clad anglers will inadvertently tangle his lure in the legs of the people further out.

A belt to clinch the top closed to prevent the rushing water from gaining entrance and a gaff, are two items which can be helpful but not absolutely necessary. If a person is intent on keeping his fish, a stringer will facilitate carrying them on the long trek back to the parking field.

If a surfman is desirous of getting his fill of this steadily shortening season, time on the beach is of prime concern. In yesteryear, when distance and residency were of little importance to the dedicated surfcaster, superior east end areas such as Montauk or Southold were chosen first. For the angler unwilling to spend the time or money seeking fish from distant beaches, let the Tower at Moses point the way.

PARTY TIME

(Continued from page 19.)

most bartenders.

Although most party boats concentrate on bottom fishing, seeking the predominant species of the moment, there are some boats that will take you out for free-swimming game fish. The mackerel, weakfish, and bluefish seasons see many boats devoted to their pursuit, and at least one boat to my knowledge (the Apache of City Island) regularly pursues the massed migrating schools of striped bass in the Sound, in the fall.

Game fishing sees extra trips scheduled to accommodate eager fishermen: either full night trips for bluefish or mini-trips for weakfish or mackerel; for a few hours in late afternoon or early evening. While offering working stiffs like you and me a shot at some action, these late trips even provide more action than daylight trips at times, probably because boat-shy gamesters are not scared off by the heavy boat traffic that predominates during daylight hours.

You can get your catch cleaned professionally by the crew members, but should take pains beforefore to inform them of your desire, as well as to establish the going rates for same. Some boats have fixed rates—so much per fish; while most others rely upon the angler's generosity and sense of fair play. Here, as in any other area where you can expect to tip for good service, let your conscience be your guide and act accordingly. Simply total up the sum value of all services performed during the trip, add to that the eagerness shown to perform each service, multiply that by the amount of people in your party, and you can come up with a reasonable amount.

If you are lucky enough to win any money in the boat pool (which is a voluntary contribution to a jackpot that is won by the heaviest fish caught amongst all entrants), it is also considered par for the course to spread a little of that wealth among the crew. Though I actually figure in the mate for a full share of any winnings, here again, you must be guided by your conscience to determine what you may consider to be a fair share.

In review, if there are any questions left unanswered, you can check the ads in The Fisherman and actually call the skipper for information. And you can depend upon their honesty in answering, as those advertised herein are notoriously reliable. Check it out and treat yourself to a day full of fun and pleasure, amidst an atmosphere of congeniality and hospitality. Come on down and join us, it's party time!

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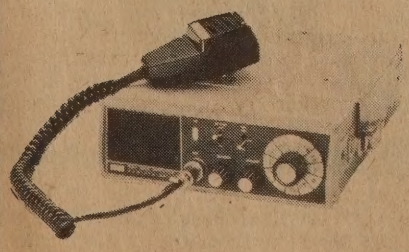

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LIVE-LINING & BUNKER DUNKING: Boon or Boondoggle?

by Dr. Einar F. Grell

Early Experiences.

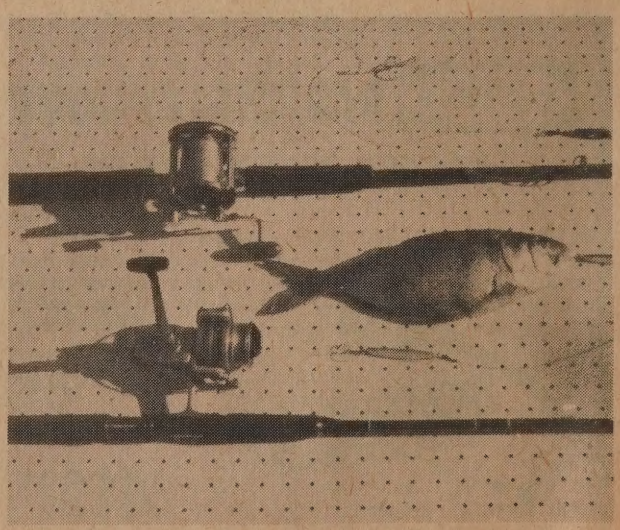
Was it the Indians of North America or the Eskimos who discovered live lining? I believe it was the Indians on second thought, for the simple reason that during my youth in New Hampshire I remember going fishing with my French-Indian grandfather who always made it a point to first catch small herring, mackerel, or menhaden prior to an actual fishing in the Atlantic Ocean off New Hampshire. If we were fishing in any of the larger lakes, we always caught small perch before we went bass fishing. The target for these expeditions—ocean or lake—was always bass: striped, small- or largemouth. Once we had caught these small bait fish, they were placed in a live bait well until time of use. When used, they were attached to terminal tackle assembly which always consisted of a treble hook, a three or four foot leader topped with a small weight-stone which served as a drail to keep the swimming bait fish down. The bait fish was then placed on the treble hook with two hooks pierced in the corners of the law or lips. The third hook was freely exposed. Other times, the treble hook was placed under the skin in front of the dorsal fin to allow for free swimming movement. Once the bait fish was attached to the terminal tackle, the fish was flipped into the water with the expectation that a larger fish would swim by and eat the little one. Quite often a drop or hand-line served in lieu of a rod and reel. When the latter were used, they were simple at best and inexpensive. I do not remember "star drags" and other fancy paraphernalia typical of reels purchased today. Rods ranged from bamboo to metal—you name it. Everything was kept remarkably simple and neat. If a wooden bobber was employed with the bait fish swimming fifteen to thirty-five feet below the surface, the rig was never retrieved when the bobber disappeared with the first runoff or pick-up. On the contrary, the bass was given plenty of time to swallow the perch, menhaden, herring, or mackerel. When I said, "Gramps, we've got a fish on." He would reply "Relax, there is plenty of time to get him. Let him eat it well and then we will see what we have on the line." It seemed like ages before he would allow me to crank or pull in the lines. One thing for sure: I do not remember ever losing many fish. Most of the fish were gut hooked indicating that the larger fish had "eaten the whole thing."

The marvelous feature of this kind of fishing was again, its complete simplicity and effectiveness. So simple, that a first grader could develop the technique in a short time. One thing I remember vividly about the catching of big bass. This old French and Indian never overdid the fish. Just enough to eat. No selling fish. No picture taking. "No big deal" was made about the procedure. Everyone fished this way for hundreds of years. It produced food. It was a standby procedure that everyone took for granted and learned from early youth. The technique was handed down from generation to generation. No one invented the technique. If anyone saw you with one hundred pounds of fish in your box, you were looked upon as something evil: a bad boogey man of the worse degree. The spirits would certainly get you in due time. Today, this type of "just enough to eat" philosophy would place Grandpa with the environmentalists and ecologists. The theme "don't catch them all—leave a few for me," was probably developed thousands of years ago by natives of this land who always knew there was an end to everything if humans overfished or over-hunted. The early natives might have been simple folks—but they were not stupid.

My point? Live-lining is a sure fire fish-catching method and has been for centuries. Catching a big fish with a smaller fish is nothing new. It has obvious advantages and disadvantages. Like anything good, it can be overdone. I truly believe that it has been overdone, especially in maximum density population areas where, at a given time, there are probably more people fishing than big fish swimming. When over-inflated egos, competition for money prizes, trophy seeking, and price of fish sold enter the picture, you have a tremendous problem which, for the lack of a better expression, can be labeled **fishing pressure.** When fishing pressure is high maximum, catches are down.

Advantages of Live-lining.

No fancy equipment is needed. Actually, live-lining can be accomplished with a hand or drop line. Do you think Indians had nifty Penn 500 or Penn 3/0 reels and thirty pound test Ande line? Actually, any regular medium-



Thirty pound class outfit rigged with a 2 ounce drail, a 3 foot leader and a 3/0 treble makes an ideal live-lining outfit. A 7½ medium action casting rod is used for snagging bunker.

sized rod can be empoyed—either whippy or stiff. Medium-stiff is probably better for the beginner.

There is almost complete relaxation involved versus such methods as trolling, casting, jigging, squidding, etc. Trolling is all work when a large number of boats converge upon a single location, but live-lining with its gentle drifting is all pleasure. When can you take a nap with your rod in a holder only to be awakened by a wild clicking noise as a large bass runs?

Everyone in live-lining fishes, including the captain, unless he is asleep on the bridge. All types of boats can be used. I have witnessed flat days in the ocean when houseboats, rubber rafts, police boats, Coast Guard boats, and even guys on surf boards drifting just beyond the breakers were dunking bunker. In intercoastal waterways, State Boat Channel, and Great South Bay proper, everyone has gotten into the live-lining act.

Gas money is saved; trolling costs money. At today's fuel prices trolling can cost too much money. Live-lining is a definite fuel saver and always has been an inexpensive way to fish.

The gap between the smart fisherman and the beginner or rookie fisherman, is narrowed tremendously via live-lining. When an unattended rod in a rod holder catches fish, can live-lining involve much skill? The rookie fisherman becomes a hero when he flops a forty pound striper on the dock and says, "Look what I caught!" When the mate or his fishing friend adds, "This is only the second time that he has gone fishing," the bystanders on the dock get the idea rapidly that anyone can catch a monster. Many of these spectators are hooked and immediately want to duplicate the performance. They go fishing. If the monster was caught on a certain charter boat referred to in the preceding discourse, the captain of this charter boat, I am certain, just picked up a couple of charters.

Trolling, jigging and casting are exacting procedures involving knowledge of local water depth, current conditions and all of the other subtle nuances associated with lures employed. You just don't pick up these skills overnight. Time and much experience is the teacher. Deferred gratification is not one of the problems associated with bunker dunking or live-lining. A big striper or weakfish is always a much better possibility with a live bunker than with a trolled or jigged artificial. The bunker game is easy to play. Give the beginner a few words of instruction and he is catching fish more often than not. If he connects, it is usually with a much larger fish than caught trolling, casting, or jigging.

Big fish whet one's ego and when a person catches a biggie, it is tough to say, "That's all for today. Let's pack it in and leave a few for the next guy." I would be willing to wager that there isn't a live-liner or bunker dunker in a hundred anglers that quits after one big fish. The prevalent theme appears as "More, more."

The "Most Difficult" aspect of live-lining.

The most difficult aspect of live-lining with bunker is catching the necessary bunker for bait. The process can be difficult if bunker are scarce or hard to find. This time-consuming procedure has also been cut down tremendously by those frustrated bunker snaggers who now net their bunkers at night or early in the morning. If this method is not followed, there is always the bunker boat from which you can purchase the necessary bait. Live bunker availability at bait and tackle stores is practically non-existent—too hard to keep alive.

Peak fishing period.

During the peak bass run late May through July, and during the fall, it is not unusual to find an armada of boats bunker dunking no more than one mile off the beach in the ocean. This is safe fishing. Live-lining within the back bay areas is an almost completely safe operation.

Simple equipment needed.

A Penn 500 or Penn 3/0 reel mounted on a conventional bay rod or trolling rod with thirty pound mono will handle any fish available. Lighter rods and reels may be included for the lighter tackle enthusiasts who do their thing with bait casting and spin casting rods and reels.

Terminal Tackle

Simple terminal tackle consists of end of line snap swivel connected to a three or four foot, thirty or forty pound mono leader. At one end of this leader is tied a two, three or four ounce leaded drail which keeps live bait or freshly demised bait down deep. On the other end of the leader is attached a #3, #4, or #5 highly sharpened treble hook. Size of treble hook used is determined by size of the bunker. Two hooks on the treble will go through the corners of the mouth of your bunker, mackerel, small blackfish, or even a small flounder. One hook of the treble is free. Bait fish may also be hooked in the skin in front of the dorsal fin. The idea here to allow the live bait fish to swim around with minimum encumbrance. Once the bunker is hooked-up, the live bait (living target) is flipped into the water and 100' to 125' of line played out with the reel clicker on and the drag set about half throttle. Free spool is in operation. The idea is to allow your bunker to swim freely around a few feet off the bottom where Sam the Striper is awaiting his eating pleasure. If you are using bunker who, upon death, have not enjoy rigor mortis and are rather stiff, you might wish to cut out the back bone of said bunker and rig up the same way. With the backbone removed, the bait will be more flexible in the water and will produce a more lifelike appearance. Fresh dead bait will catch fish; so don't abort a fishing trip when your bunker have croaked in your live bait well. Put them on ice and use them. Overnight cold storage followed by use the next day is almost a worthless procedure, since oils leach out of the bunker.

Procuring bait and keeping it alive.

The most difficult aspect of bunker dunking, often-times, is obtaining the bunker. When they are around this is how you get them. Look up creeks, drains, or back bay areas for the characteristics splashes and silver flashes

(Continued on next page.)

Peter Grell with a 35 pound striped bass taken while live-lining with bunker off Gilgo Beach.

just below the surface. Rig up a spin pole with a bunker snagger—a treble hook loaded with several ounces of lead. This will serve as your terminal tackle. Make sure that you use fifteen or twenty pound test line on your bunker snagging reel, otherwise you will lose your snagger with your first cast. I have employed two ounce Spoons with free swinging trebles for bunker snagging and they are the equal to the bunker snagging hooks. If the bunker are packed closely together, you will have little trouble in catching several. If they are widely scattered, you will have to chase them. This could take some time and usually does.

How many bunker do you need?

Don't spend too much time in getting too many bunker. A half-dozen per angler usually is sufficient. Place them in a large container with fresh sea water and try to keep them alive. Bunker that are badly snagged in the gut and are bleeding profusely will never make it to the fishing grounds. In addition, they will pollute your bait well. Throw them back. Being selective here will eliminate much changing of the water in the bait well, which is all work if you do not have an automatic well. I usually give this job to Doc Muller when he accompanies me. He is a younger man with hydromaniacal tendencies, as well as possessing the basic desire to keep a flat stomach. He thoroughly enjoys this exercise. Actually, he thinks the entire operation is crazy and that I am a lunatic. What can I say? Everyone has his opinions. I treasure his opinions. After these live-lining expeditions, he is thoroughly exhausted. He remarks, "We only caught three big weakfish. You tried to lose one of my weakfish by improper use of the net." I reply, "We must think ecologically and think of positive conservation measures. What would the dock boys say if we trotted in with fifteen or twenty large weakfish...or bass. Are we fish hogs?"

Another less frustrating bunker getting procedure is to look for a bunker boat and buy bunker from them. This saves much time and effort when bunker boats are around. Most often, however, they are more difficult to find than hobby horse manure.

Many of the midnight bunker dunking cowboys purchase small gillnets which they call bait nets. They set such out in the darkness of early morning hours in places where bunker frequent. They sit for an hour or two and then pull in their nets. This procedure is frowned upon by the purist fishermen for many reasons. The big "no-no" involved is the fact that you will occasionally trap game fish under the guise that you are bait procuring. Also, your fishing buddies will not like you at all. They will also believe this is the way you catch your big fish.

Most anglers snag their own and the lazy ones try and buy fresh bunker from those anglers who are not quite so lazy. At best, bunker snagging takes time and effort; thank heavens for this difficulty. If they were easy to catch, I don't think there would be any large weakfish or bass around these parts. Everyone would be bunker dunking with resulting negative results upon the fish population. Bunker snagging is the limiting factor in bunker dunking and live-lining.

Quality of bunker and other bait.

For best results, bunker should be fished alive, if at all possible. Bunker that have recently died are also good if kept on ice just prior to use. The major factor making them "yum-yum" bait is the oil which they secrete. Live bunker secrete a lot of oil.

Freshly caught blackfish, eels, snappers, small mackerel, herring, and small flounder are also employed in live-lining. But it is the same old story. Can you catch these species? I know anglers who can't catch flounder during the flounder season nor can they catch blackfish. How will they fare in this preliminary bait catching procedure? Not too well. Using the baseball analogy—if you can't get to first base, how will you score? Many live-liners abort their fishing expeditions at this point when they cannot catch the needed live bait.

Dunking bunker in the ocean.

The bunker dunker or live-liner in the ocean is basically a drifter in his boat. He runs his boat up to shallow water, just beyond the breakers and if the wind is off the land, he flops his live bunker rig into the drink and begins his drift. Off Long Island's South Shore, the drift usually takes him from ten to fifty feet of water. This is usually no more than a mile drift off the beach. Remember the basic theory here is that large stripers and bass are close inshore, nestled in their favorite niches. If the wind is off the ocean, the reverse procedure is employed. You drift from deeper water into shallower water. Best method is always from shallow to deeper water; either drift results in much ground being covered. When you catch a fish, you can narrow your drifting range into a smaller area. Repeated drifts are taken by running up to different spots on the beach until you strike a "pay dirt" area.

Drifting in inlet areas will be determined, for the most part, by tidal flow; secondly, by wind. Day or night you must watch out for buoys, sand bars, and other forms of rip-rap. The idea here is to find the producing holes. Experience will dictate best fishing area.

Live-lining under bridges is much more restrictive since it is primarily an anchored-up procedure. The bunker, eel or whatever employed, is allowed to swim freely 100' to 150' behind your boat restricted by line and anchored boat. Traffic beneath bridges during daytime hours practically wipes out live-lining when the sun is up. At night you can see many boats anchored up doing their thing via live-lining or clam chumming.

Live-lining in major navigational channels is confined to spots characterized by holes in the bottom configuration or places where there are side basins or drains entering the major navigational channel. Sharpies will never tell you about their prime spots, but at night you can see any number of them anchored—quietly going about their business. They are the quiet people of the night world. They will be gone at daybreak for the casual observer. At 8AM, they will either be back in bed, at the fish market selling their catch, or at their regular place of employment.

Letting out line procedure and hooking-up with fish.

The amount of line you let out depends upon the weight of drail selected, as well as the speed of the drift. Your objective is to keep your dunked bunker near the bottom. Place your reel in free spool with the clicker on. Pull out several feet of line at a time, waiting for the current to pull the line tight. Then let out some more line, repeating the procedure until you feel the drail hit the bottom. The terminal tackle has arrived and you are now ready for the action with the bunker now swimming above the drail, three or four feet at the end of the trebled leader. This is usually 100' to 125'. Remember, you want the bunker down near the bottom. If you place too light a drail on your terminal tackle, the bunker will come up too far off the bottom—probably near the surface. With a fast moving current, you can run out line without hand-pulling it. Thumb pressure on reel will serve as the brake as you free spool the line.

When your bunker has reached the bottom, your role is now one of developing the virtue of patience. You can hold the rod with reel on free spool with your thumb serving as your sensitizer or you can place it in rod holder with reel on clicker to await a pickup. Most hold the rod. As you drift along, certain things will happen that will make your pulse beat quicken. You will sometimes hang-up your bunker on the bottom. When this occurs, you will get reel whine and sing, or fast clicking noise. You must assume this reel noise is a fish runoff and proceed accordingly. You probably drop back, count to ten and set the hook on the bottom, a conch shell, piece of anchor line...you name it. Actual fish runoff results in much faster reel sing. When hanging up bunker on bottom as well as breaking off a fish, you must check the condition of your bunker. Experience with hang-ups will soon tell you the difference between flase alarms and the real thing. The same holds true when you hang-up on bottom ripple marks which catch your drail and give the impression that you have a large fish mouthing your bunker, inasmuch as you get little tugs, grabs and pulls by the bottom.

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IT'S PARTY TIME

by Andy Regina

Two beauties waiting to take you out fishing, sitting at the dock at City Island.

Saltwater fishermen in our area sure are a lucky lot. Not only do they have a large variety of species available to choose from, and similarly a large variety of techniques to employ for fishing for their choices, they further have a variety of methods in which their favored techniques can be utilized.

If it sounds complicated, it really is not so. For instance, should you seek bottom fish you can fish for flounder, blackfish, sea bass, porgies, fluke, cod, whiting, and ling. Any game fish sought would include either striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, mackerel, tuna, albacore, and bonito among the inshore species. Offshore species are the big game such as sharks, the billfishes, and once again—tuna.

For most bottom species and a lot of the inshore game fish, you can try for them with different types of tackle, from a dropline to conventional gear, or any one of several types of spinning tackle from ultra-light through light and intermediate, up to the heavy stuff. Not to be overlooked are either spincasting or fly fishing—either of which can also be a pleasurable technique for some fishermen to use.

Your favorite tackle can be incorporated into fishing from shore or fishing from boats, broadening the scope when you realize that now you further have a choice of either casting or trolling; still fishing or drifting; bait fishing or fishing with lures, or fishing bottom or intermediate depths. The choices provide pleasant problems, which some fishermen solve by becoming skilled with one method and technique, while others may learn to become adept at several, to take advantage of different conditions that may arise during the course of the season and which may call for different methods or techniques.

One of the most popular means of obtaining a day's fishing afloat, the party boat caters to the fisherman who does not own his own boat, cannot afford a private charter, or does not care for fishing from shore. Also known as head boats and open boats, party boats are merely boats that carry paying passengers to the fishing grounds on a daily basis.

Subject to rigorous Coast Guard inspections that ensure passenger safety and well-being, approved party boats operate from many ocean ports along our coast, as well as from many locations within our bays, sounds, and rivers. Naturally, the most popular places harbor the largest fleets of party boats; such famous spots as Captree, Sheepshead Bay, and Montauk. Here you may have as many as twenty or thirty party boats from which to choose; while other spots such as Freeport and Point Lookout boast smaller fleets of about six or eight boats. Other locations may have as little as one boat available—depending on passenger demands and pressure.

You also have a choice of fishing areas, because party boats ply the waters of Long Island Sound as well as those of the ocean. Sound-based boats may not be as numerous as those at ocean ports, but are spread around enough so that there is usually one or two within your area. The Bronx proliferates, and maybe rightly so, due to the great amount of anglers in that area. We have three boats sailing from the Bronx River, at Westchester Avenue: the Claire, Super Claire, and Bronx Queen. City Island has four fine party boats to choose from: the Ebb Tide, Lucky Star, Apache, and the North Star.

Also located along the western pocket is the Klondike of New Rochelle; Delmar of Greenwich, and Hel-Cat of New London. Further east, out on Long Island, is the Ever Ready of Huntington and some boats at both Greenport and Port Jefferson. A check through the pages of your local newspaper, as well as The Long Island Fisherman will reveal many boats from which you can choose, based on proximity, species sought, or sailing times.

Usually sailing on strict schedules throughout the fishing season (which generally runs from St. Patrick's Day through Thanksgiving Day) boats sail at various times, offering diversity for the early bird as well as the late sleeper. Because they cater to the public, rail space aboard party boats is meted out on a first come, first served basis. If you have a special preference for any

particular spot, we strongly suggest that you arrive at the boat at least a couple of hours earlier than its scheduled sailing time. This is usually early enough to offer most discriminating anglers ample available rail spots from which to choose.

Some fanatics, myself included, set on guaranteeing one particularly favored rail position for themselves, go so far as to meet incoming boats just to secure that spot for the following trip. Here a towel or fish bag—even a dummy rod—is usually tied to the rail overnight, at the angler's favored spot. This allows the angler to sleep a little later, enjoy a leisurely breakfast and still arrive at the boat shortly before it sails, with his cherished spot secure.

Not a sure-fire method by any means, we can still recall arriving at Shea's Dock one bright, sunny morning at Montauk, only to see our boat sailing off in the distance. Though we had arrived before the scheduled sailing time, an overflow crowd prompted the skipper to depart a half-hour ahead of time, relegating us to the humdrum task of being a loving husband and father ashore for the day, while our rod tip enjoyed a trip to the fluke grounds. The cheese was made more binding when we met the incoming boat at the end of the day, to regain our rod tip. Ed Hegner's sincere apologies rang true enough; but were accompanied by hearty belly-laughs when he discovered who the owner of the lonely rod was!

Your best bet may be to arrive aboard a couple of hours prior to sailing time, secure your spot at the rail and then eat your breakfast within sight of the boat—if not actually on the very boat itself. Many of our modern party boats boast clean, well-equipped galleys that offer everything from a snack to a full-course meal, and a lot of those seagoing chefs are good enough to negate bringing any sandwiches from home. Most boats also offer the standard hot and cold beverages, at moderate prices, and some boats like the Ever Ready of Huntington even supply free hot coffee for their passengers.

Other features that make sailing aboard party boats a pleasure are clean rest rooms, ladies' accommodations, comfortable cabins, and genuinely accommodating crew members. Some boats offer bunks or reclining seats for sleepyheads; heated rails for warming hands of cold weather fishermen, and ice to keep hot weather catches fresh. Benefits enjoyed by many are the reduced rates many skippers offer to senior citizens and children, which could make taking the entire family along on a vacation trip easier on the pocket. These reduced rates are usually not available on holidays and weekends; so plan your family outings accordingly if you want to save a few bucks.

While there are some boats that provide free tackle, there are some others that charge a modest rental for same, and whereas some boats make it a common practice to properly rig every rod on the rail, aboard other boats you may be charged a modest fee for terminal tackle. In either case, if you are not sure of the proper manner of rigging for any specific species, ask one of the deckhands to do it for you anyway, to be certain it is correct.

Bait, in most instances, is included in the price of the fare, except perhaps where seaworms may be required—such as when fishing for flounder. Some boats have this bait available for sale at prices comparable to those charged by local bait shops; while other boats may require that you bring your own worms aboard. To be on the safe side, always check with the skipper or a crew member before you sail.

Captains and crew members of most party boats usually bend over backwards to make your trip pleasurable, catering to your every need while trying to make sure you catch your fair share of fish. The success of any party boat is the factor that engenders repeated return of many fishermen, thus ensuring the skipper of a solid bloc of regulars who will sail with no one else. These aficianados form loyal fan clubs, each swearing that their captain is the best in the business. This loyalty makes for some pretty heated arguments at the local watering hole, as regulars of various boats vie with each other endlessly. These friendly arguments never get resolved and are considered par for the course for party boat regulars, while being stoically accepted as same by

(Continued on page 13.)

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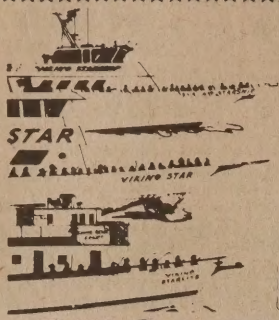

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Captain Buddy Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** said that when some anglers dumped their buckets of porgies at 7:20 a.m., going to the 100s by mid-morning, and catch 200 porgies plus by the end of the day, you know that the fishing is top-notch. This past week, many anglers caught 100 or more porgies at Cerberus Shoals and virtually everybody is making a good catch.

Captain John DeMaio of the charter boat **Vivienne** said that on Saturday his charter made one of the best catches that has come aboard the Vivienne in years. Casting bucktails, Bill, Sal and Emil took 33 bass around the Lighthouse. Half of the catch was fish over 20 lbs. and a half dozen of the bass were in the 30 lb. class. On Thursday's charters 15 bass were taken in addition to a mess of blues. John said that there are a lot of bass around, but the high winds has made fishing difficult.

Captain Mike on the charterboat **Montauk** called to say that it is now officially "diamond jigging time." You can catch all the blues you want now and bass are being taken daily. Best trip of the week was on Friday, when five bass were taken with 192 bluefish. Seven bass were taken on Saturday, and the bass average

Joe Layman of Amityville holds the 49 lb. striped bass he caught on Captain Phil Lewis' charterboat "Adios" at Montauk, which is the largest bass taken on a charter boat this year.

Bill, Sal and Emil with the 33 striped bass they took last Saturday casting bucktails on Captain John DeMaio's charter boat "Vivienne."

about 20 lbs. and range up to 30. Mike said that he has been very successful using the new Tri-Fin "Teardrop Diamond Jig." He says it has been working great in the Montauk Rips and he has taken half of the bass on it.

Captain Warren Hader of the charterboat **Devilfish** reported that the fishing is really great around the Lighthouse and on the South Side all the way down to Ditch Plains, but the high winds have made fishing difficult. On Saturday, the charter scored with over 100 bluefish and had a few nice bass for a bonus.

Captain Gene Kelly of the charter boat **Sea Doll** reported that his charters have been taking a half dozen or more bass in the 30 lb. class per trip, along with all the blues you want. Gene said that there seems to be a lot more bass around this year than last and they are spread out over a wider area. Fish have been taken in the Pollack Rip, Great Eastern, under the Light and all along the South Side. If the weather holds, it may turn into a great fall run of big bass.

Captain Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** reported taking what may be the largest bass of the season on a charterboat last week. Joe Layman of Amityville landed a fish of 49 lbs. that took over 100' of line on its first run. That morning, the charter had 8 other bass in the 25-30 lb. range, and the afternoon charter produced five bass. Jake Caruso of New Jersey had four bass Monday afternoon despite the heavy seas. Sunday's trip produced eight nice bass for Bob Gonzalez of Jackson Heights trolling tubes in various areas. The Captain will be fishing until the day before Thanksgiving if the weather permits, and Phil says he still has a few open dates in November which should be an excellent month for stripers.

LOOKOUT, FISH a very popular name at Montauk, Capt. Paul Sundberg, formerly of the charterboat Montauk is in the process of having a brand new charterboat built by Mannino Boat Company of Islip, N.Y. The boat, Big Blue is expected to be completed by January and fully outfitted and ready to do battle

Pictured with full bags of jumbo porgies taken on the "Viking Skipper II" are members of the Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County, N.J. Porgy fishing should be active until the last of October.

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Roger Rebuck, Jim Lennon and R. Dellipaioli display their pool winning cod and pollack taken on the "Viking Starship's" most recent Nantucket wreck trip.

by spring. Paul, a veteran of many years of chartering at Montauk will continue to feature diamond jigging and squidding. The boat will have a 15' long cockpit and will be chartering for up to 6 passengers.

Captain Frank of the charterboat **Free Spirit** called to say inshore fishing remains great and his charters are getting 50-100 bluefish a trip with monsters still inhabiting Cartwright. Frank has sailed his last offshore trip of the season last week and says the blue shark were still very active. With cooperative weather, the shark activity should continue awhile.

Captain Ron of the charterboat **Julie III** reported two members of the Saltwater Anglers of Bergen City caught over 400 porgies up to 2¾ lbs. fishing Cerberus Shoals on Friday using clam and squid bait. Phil Leshowitz had set up the trip. On Saturday Ron had the same party out and they took 177 blues from 3-7 lbs. They also had one 23 lb. striped bass and two weaks. This was all on diamond jigs, off the Point. Sunday's charter led by Louis Hernandez of NYCTA boated 130 blues from 3-8 lbs. fishing off the Point.

Captain Jack Passie of the charter boat **Windy** reported earlier in the week he caught a couple of bass at daybreak and toward the end of the week, action started to pick up stronger. His charters had 10 Friday, 6 Saturday and 13 Sunday, bass ranging from 8-35 lbs., all on feathers and umbrellas. Jack is working down on the south side along Caswell's and Kings and also Pollack Rip. Plenty of bluefish to fill in with when the bass fishing is slow.

SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
MIXED BAG

SHINNECOCK

Thom at **Speck's Bait & Tackle** reported the local flounder fishing is fair for fish of mixed sizes. Best bait seems to be worms. A surprize showing of some nice sea bass in the bay also on worms late last week. Thom had one customer who journeyed to Orient Saturday a.m. and returned with over 100 flounder averaging 1 lb. including several 2 pounders.

The Captain Clark Fleet reports excellent blackfishing this past week on Peconic Bay wrecks. Thursday saw over 400 blacks taken for 11 fares. Bob Moorehead of Calverton had 37 blacks including the 10 lb. pool winner. The **Capt. Clark II** expects to make another ocean wreck trip this coming Saturday for sea bass and blacks, weather permitting.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
MIXED BAG

MASTIC BEACH

Stiriz' Fishing Station reports flounder action fair, but improving with decent catches being brought in each day. Best action has been from buoy 17 to buoy 9 on worm, clam or mussel bait. Fish running from 3/4 to 1 lb. There are tons and tons of blueclaw crabs all over the place. Two men on Saturday filled their trunk with 270 blueclaws.

BAY SHORE

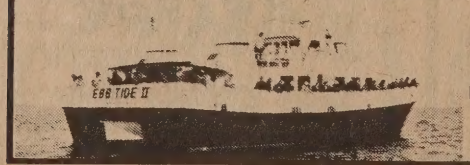
Smokey's Bait and Tackle reports excellent catches of blackfish at the Kismet Reef and at the Robt. Moses Bridge pilings on green and fiddlers. Carl weighed in a 7½ lb. black that was taken from the Kismet Reef. Lots of blueclaw crabs still around. A few flounder are being caught in Oak Beach Cove and on the Bay Shore flats. A 33 lb. striped bass took the hook Friday for "Billy the Kid" on a Cordell Sea Hag from South Beach in the Bay. Two other stripers in the 40s also fell to plugs there on Friday. This was all during the day. Two to four lb. blues in 65' of water, both east and west of the inlet. Bigger blues with bonito and albacore mixed in off Cherry Grove in 120' of water falling to bait and also to jigs.

CAPTREE

The **Captain Ben Litwin** reports very good blackfishing. Over the weekend Carol Nercaldo caught an 8¾ lb. black. Nearly everyone on board also got big blackfish. Catches are being made on green crabs, fiddlers or clam on the inside wrecks. There are plenty of blackfish and the sizes are very good.

Capt. Joe of the Captree open boat **Jib V** reported that on Saturday some fair blackfishing was had at

★ CITY ISLAND ★



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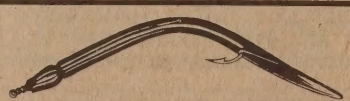

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the Kismit Reef as well as on a few of the bay wrecks. Some porgies and sea bass have been mixed with the blacks which run up to 8 lbs. Fiddlers take most of the tautogs. Joe reminded that the **Jib VI** has been on the flounder run. He called the fishing very picky but expects things to improve any day now as a result of the past week's cold temperatures.

Capt. Rod of the open boat of the same name described the flatfishing in the Bay as poor. He expects the picture will improve dramatically in about a weeks time. By recent standards Sunday was considered a good day when 80 to 100 flounder were taken by the fares onboard. Fishing was done in the State Channel at Gilgo with worms and clams.

Capt. Neil Delanoy of the Captree charterboat **Lady Ann** also told of poor floundering, particularly early in the week. Fishing had improved noticeably by Sunday, however, when 60 flounder came aboard. This action was in the State Channel on worms and clams. The fish were mixed in size and a few blowfish and porgies found their way into the bags. Capt. Neil passed along word that real fine bluefishing continues south of Patchogue whenever the weather has permitted boats to get offshore.

BABYLON

Augie's Bait and Tackle reports flounder fishing is not great, but there are some fish being caught, roughly 6-12 per boat for fish of keeper size. This is on worms. Lots of small porgies and small sea bass in the holes and at the bridges. The big news is blackfish. Big numbers of big fish are being caught at the artificial reef, all of the bridge pilings and at the Sore Thumb rocks on fiddlers and green crabs with the greenies taking the bigger fish. Ski has heard rumblings of bass being caught, but has not see any this past week. He's been selling lots of live eels. There are still plenty of blues on the outside and the further off you go, the larger the fish get. Ski weighed in a 17 lb. 9 oz. blue for a customer off the Speedy VI and he said it wasn't the pool winner—that's how big the fish are running. There are smaller blues closer in to shore. Lots of blueclaws were taken in traps.

Bill at **Babylon Fishing Station** reports nice flounder as far as size goes are being caught, but the quantities could be better. Best areas have been the State Channel behind Grass Island, Mud Creek and Fox Creek, with fish averaging 3/4 lbs. The weather has kept a lot of boats from going out however. Blackfishing has been excellent at the inshore Kismet Reef, on green crabs and fiddlers.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS

★ BEST BET ★

BLACKFISH

COPIAGUE

Bait and Tackle Unlimited tells us that flounder are hitting at Amity cut, Merrick Bay and at the Copiague Hole on clam bait and clam chum. Good blackfishing at Meadow Brook bridge pilings and at the Kismet Reef on fiddlers and greenies. George Zoeller boated an 11½ lb. black at Kismet on Thursday on a fiddler. A few bass are being picked up off West end too and at the Sore Thumb on live eels and bunker.

SEAFORD

Captain Eddie's Fishing Station tells us on Sunday one of their rentals came back with 30 keeper flounder up to 1 lb. working Massapequa cove on the flood using bloodworms and mussel chum. The sand porgies have said bye-bye. Good blackfishing at the bridges. One customer returned with 2 buckets full, blacks to 4 lbs. on fiddlers and a clam.

Uncle Hermie's Fishing Station reports the colder weather has goosed the larger flounders into activity. Ted says it looks like we'll have a good flounder season if the weather cooperates a bit. The largest flounder of the week ran 1¼ lbs. and the flatties are just about all over the bay.

Pop's Fishing Station says a few hardy fishermen took boats out this past week and caught fish. Tom McGrath had 36 keeper flounder and 50 more throwbacks. His largest keeper was 1 lb. 13 oz. using bloods and dyed clam with corn and clam bellies for chum. Fish are plentiful, the majority small. Flounders on the east side of Wantagh Parkway between the 2nd and 3rd bridges and also Four Corners. Blacks plentiful on fiddlers. A 5 lber. was taken off the Jones Beach fishing pier by one skiff customer. Small porgies, snappers and some weaks still being caught around Four Corners to Massapequa Cove and weaks around the 3rd bridge. Blue claw crabs now fewer in number, but larger in size being taken on the west side of the 1st bridge in Amityville.

BELLMORE

Merrick Tackle has had customers come in very good catches of flounder taken at Merrick Pt. and several other deeper holes in that immediate area. There are lots of small fish which must be returned but there are also enough keeper size flounder to stock your freezer. Catches being made on worms and clam chum.

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** reports an excellent Saturday and

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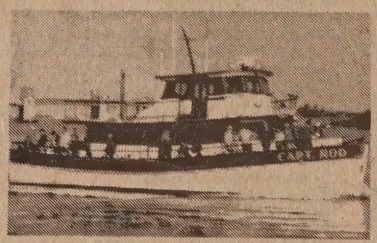
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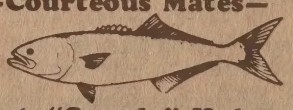
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Sunday of flounder fishing very close to the station. Many anglers had catches in the 50's of keeper flounder. Hotspots were Merrick Pt., Rowboat Alley and Ned's creek. Lots of 1 lb. fish now. There are also lots of midgets which must be returned to the water. The sand porgies have left the Bay and now the larger flounder are starting to dominate. Bloodworms on the hook are the ticket and chumming does not seem to be necessary, says Jimmy.

WEST END
SOUTH SHORE
★BEST BET★
FLOUNDER

BALDWIN

Ed at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** tells us a lot of small flounder are being caught west of Charvin and Freeport and also Garretts Lead. However, roughly 1/3 of your catch will be keeper size, worm and clam on the hook.

FREEPORT

Hook Line and Sinker Bait and Tackle speaks of very good bluefishing this past week at Cholera. Mike Banks and Peter Scalki caught 44 keeper flounder fishing the deep holes at Rowboat Alley on sand worms. Paul Gritman boated 22 keepers plus 20 midgets fishing Randall Bay and the golf course off Merrick. Bob says the east side of the high flats drain bridge has also produced good flounder catches. Good blackfish catches being made at the Meadowbrook bridge on fiddlers. Try to get a spot on either side of the main opening. A few weakfish still being caught on sand worms between the phone platform and the bridge.

Freeport Boatmen's Association reports good catches of bluefish were made over the weekend. Saturday, **Nite Owl II, Norseman II and the Atlantic** chummed and baited blues at Cholera. These were big fish up to 15 lbs. **Lady J II** and **Big Foot** were also in this action. On Sunday, **Acme II** and Norseman II returned and bagged up on blues again on bait and chum.

Anthony's Fishing Station reports a good flounder weekend. Saturday, Mack Micciollo and his brother had 40 keeper flounder and a few blackfish. The flounders ran from 1/2 to 1¼ lbs. and were taken in Merrick Bay and at High Flats Drain. Another customer Saturday had 20 keeper flounders at High Flats drain area. Sunday saw 3 very

Bob Smith with school bass that hit a RedFin swimmer at Cedar Beach. Photo courtesy of The Store at Oak Beach.

good catches running from 15-20 keeper flounder per skiff on bloodworms and mussel chum in the high flats drain area. Flounders are definitely larger now.

The **Captain Bill** tells us that Dennis Murphy of Massapequa bagged 30 keeper flounder on Thursday. Friday saw Jerry Krystal of New Rochelle with 40 good keepers. Saturday, Dusty Smith of Amityville had 51 keeper flounder. Largest flounder of the week was taken by Mike Fiedler of Plainview, the fish running 1¾ lbs. Catches are being made in and around the Freeport/Baldwin area on clam bait.

The **Starstream II** reports very good catches of bluefish in the 6-12 lb. range at close-by Cholera. Catches are being made now on both jigs and bait.

The Captain Al reports fantastic bluefishing at Cholera just a short ride from the inlet and they've been baiting and jigging blues to 16 lbs. Big fish are in. Please note that the boat is now sailing their night trips Friday and Saturday nights only.

Captain Tony on the **Miss Freeport II** tells us the flounder fishing has been excellent all week working local creeks. Saturday was super with some fares totaling 50 keeper flounder. The fish are bigger now, with 1 lbers. becoming more commonplace. Tony says come on down the fish are here and plentiful.

Captain Dan of the charter boat **NanSea** had a half day charter Sunday and fished Cholera taking a lot of blues in the 3-5 lb. class close-up along the beach in 40' of water. His biggest fish of the day

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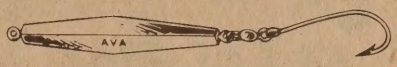

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WEAKS

Don Heller used a live bunker to dupe this 51 lb. striper. The big linesider was weighed at the Charvin Fishing Station.

was a 15 lb. blue. Dan is fishing umbrellas and Tony Acetta spoons. They also had a 16 lb. green bonito. This charter was for Gary Zupar of Malverne.

The Bluefin Fleet reports the less the wind, the better the catches of blues are. Wind and rain this past week roiled up the water. Nevertheless, Friday saw a super catch made at Cholera and the boat was ready to sail for home by 1PM, fish taken up to 15 lbs. Blues ran mostly 3-7 lbs. on jigs or bait. The boat worked Cholera all week and weekend and those who fished hard and stayed at the rail caught best. Captain Charlie Adams had the boat out on Sunday and the big fish of the day was a 16 lb. blue. Captain Tony DeLernia had the boat out Saturday at a pet blackfish spot on the inside and bagged blacks and flounder.

The **Captain Lou III** reports excellent flounder fishing this past week. Even in the snow Wednesday there was a flounder slaughter. Thursday was fabulous with low man getting 35 keeper fish. High hook was 97 keeper flounder. Friday was excellent again with Mike Fayer of Great Neck high hook with 90 keeper flounder. Ben and Dave Makowski of Floral Park had 125 keepers. A real bail job. Low man was in the 30s. Saturday was excellent again. Jersey angler John Mocarski went home with 86 keepers. Sunday's fishing was slow due to strong northwest winds, but some nice size fish came up nonetheless. A few large kingfish up to 3½ lbs. were caught Friday. The sand porgies have moved out.

Charter boat **Ivory Queen** called to tell us steady customer Jim Caruso and party fished local wrecks in stiff

A party headed by Tommy Donovan used light spinning tackle to put away this fine catch of big blues, bonito, and albacore. Fishing was done S.E. of Jones Inlet aboard the "Shalidon."

northwest winds Sunday and were rewarded with over 200 blackfish up to 36 lbs. Joe Luciano was high hook. On this party's last trip, Joe had been skunked on bluefish but now he's evened the score. All fish were taken on either green crab or clam.

Captain Pat of the **Lady J III** reports he fished Cholera Saturday and for a Dr. Palumbo and friend had 11 blues from 6-12 lbs. all on 6 lb. test, bait and on light spinning tackle.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reported that flounders are small but plentiful. Best action has been the last half of incoming and top of the outgoing on worms. Mussel chum greatly improves scores when the wind makes chumming feasible. Very good blackfishing at the Meadowbrook and Long Creek Bridges. "Any tide" said Ed. Best baits fiddlers or green crabs. A few bass trolled on the West Bar over the weekend and the Cholera continues to produce plenty of blues for diamond jiggers.

ISLAND PARK

Charlie at **Beckmann's Tackle Shop** reported that flounder and blackfish are keeping most anglers busy in his area. Charlie called the flounder fishing good with the best action being found way up at the heads of local creeks. Worms and mussel chum produce the best scores. He described the blackfishing as excellent at the Bridges for those using fiddlers.

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Joe McMurray and Jeff Nelson boated 300 lbs. of big blues on Lupo umbrella rigs at Sandy Hook. They fished aboard the Atlantic Beach charter boat, "Kim."

The **Commodore** reports super weekend fishing. Flounder to the tune of 30-50 keepers a man, working Reynolds Channel, just 15 minutes from the dock. Captain Klem says sizes have been improving and the biggest fish of the weekend ran 1¼ lbs. There are more half pound fish now.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Sy Rubin reported from his fishing station that bluefish put in an appearance at the mouth of East Rockaway Inlet on Sunday. Clouds of birds worked over the fish and bait. Big blues on live bunker at the Atlantic Beach Bridge. Some of these fish go to 16 lbs. Sy called the blackfishing excellent with most of the fish running anywhere from 2 to 4 lbs. Green crabs and fiddlers have both been effective baits. Small flounders and porgies in the Bay. Best bet here is worms.

Captain Ronnie Lepper of the charter boat **Kim** called to put the spotlight on friend and mate George Purman of Baldwin. George is a hard fishing surfcaster with a passion for fish with stripes on them. Ronnie says George has always been after his 60 lber., which as we all know is not an easily attained goal. Well, George exceeded his hopes by bagging a 60 lb. 4 oz. striper at Provincetown on the Cape on a large white swimming Danny plugs. This was of course from the beach on 30 lb. test line. Over the years George has racked up exactly 40 stripers that have gone over 40 lbs. at the Cape.

ROCKAWAYS

Skippie's Bait and Tackle tells us flounder fishing is improving from Oil City to Duck Pt. and also at the cement blocks off Long Beach High School. Very good blackfishing at

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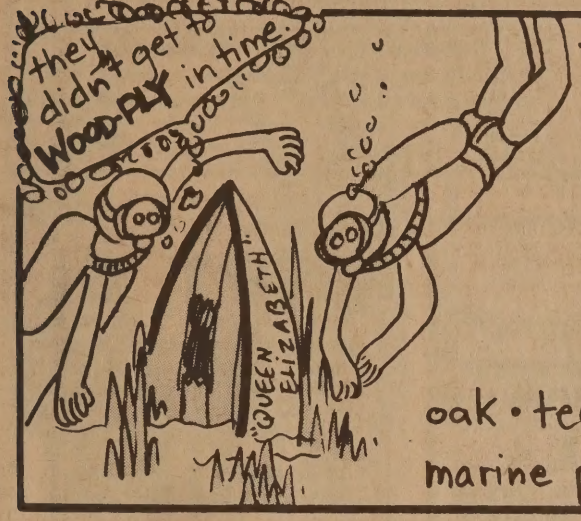

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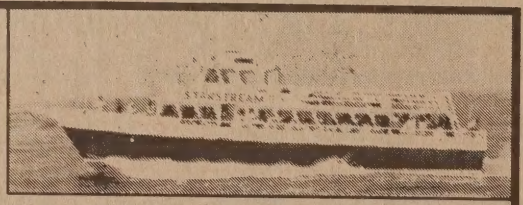

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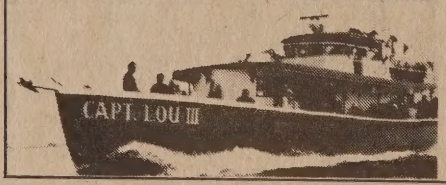

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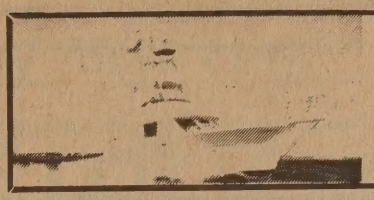

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Ten-year-old Paul Bonney proudly displays the 6 lb. 1 oz. fluke that he landed aboard the Gerritsen Beach open boat, "Elsie K III."

the Atlantic Beach Bridge on fiddlers and greenies. Quanity and quality are there. An anonymous customer boated a 35 lb. striper Saturday morning at the Atlantic Beach bridge. Two other bass were lost in the pilings but he also took 6 medium size blues. This was all on live bunker. Skippy has heard of 5 other bass taken at the bridge also. Lots of blues off the beach along with loads of bait. Eels are still a good number in the back and crabs are still around. Snappers still being caught in the creek at Pete's clambar.

JAMAICA BAY

John at **Cross Bay Bait & TAckle** reported things kind of quite due to the weather over the weekend. He did relay word that some blackfish were being taken at the Bridges on fiddlers and clams and flounders are beginning to take hold. Both clams and worms taking the newly arrived flounder.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The **Big Mohawk II** ran into some bad weather on Saturday with only some fish taken for the day's effort. Sunday's fishing improved at Seabright and the Farms where bluefishermen took 4-6 lb. blues on butterfish, smelts and bunker backs. There was a constant pick on the fish with high hook taking 15-18 fish, pool fish running up to 8 lbs.

The **Zephyr** enjoyed good blackfishing on Sturday, fish in the 4-6 lb. range taking green crabs at Seabright and along the Jersey Coast. Pool fish ran up to 10 lbs. Sunday afternoon also produced some nice fishing despite poor sea conditions; most fish averaging 4 lbs.

The **Helen H** reported very good bluefishing at 17 Fathoms, fish ranging from 4 lbs. to pool fish around 18 lbs. Catches from 15-35 fish per person have been made on butterfish and smelts.

Charlie at **Mike's Bait and Tackle** reports the party boats are making good catches of blues at Seabright and Cholera days on bait, fish in the 4-8 lb. range. Blackfishing very good at Seabright with lots of fish and big sizes available. This is on fiddlers and greenies. A few stripers being taken from South Beach on Staten Island on plugs. A few porgies being taken here and there.

Captain Walt on the **Flamingo III** has been taking blues, bonito and albacore at Cholera with a few stripers thrown in. The bass being caught are up to 20 lbs. Thursday they fished Seabright and jigged a load of blues. Generally catches have been good everyday. Walt says now is the best time of year to come out when the crowds are thin and the fish are moving and feeding.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny at **Santo's Sport Shop** told us of a pretty good showing of flounder at the South Beach and Berger Ave. storm sewers as well as from the bulkheads in Great Kills Harbor. Quite a few lafayettes being taken in the Harbor along with the flounder and some bluefish continue to be taken in the area. Lenny told of good blackfishing on fiddlers and green crabs at the Old Home Dock, Old Orchard Light and the Great Kills Bug Light.

Young Jamie Ryan displays the 16¾ lb. blue he landed from the North Channel Bridge on a snagged bunker. Fish was weighed at Cross Bay Bait and Tackle.

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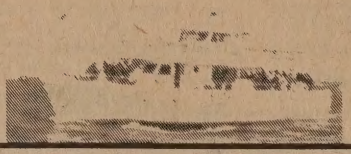

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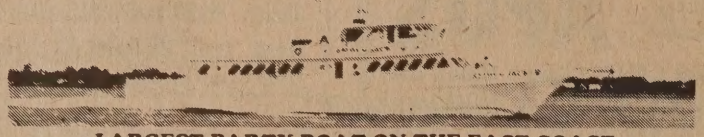

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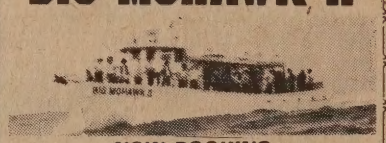

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MIXED BAG

GREENPORT

Art White of **AP White Bait Shop** reports very good blackfishing east of Gardiner's, and also at Gull and Plum Islands. Porgy fishing also continues good despite the cool weather. Blues being taken in the Race and east of Gardiner's on jigs while a few bass in the 25 to 30 lb. class are being picked up on bucktails in the Gut. Art called the flounder fishing at Orient very good with fish averaging 1 lb. and running up to 2 lbs.

SOUTHOLD

Ace reported from his **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** that Sunday was a complete blow-out but that late last week and on Saturday some good scores of blacks and flounder were made out at the Orient Station. Best flounder fishing has been in Petty's Bight, off of the State Park, and near the Fish Trap. Blackfishing has been good at Mulford Point, at the Orient Light and west of the station. Some porgies still being taken in Petty's Bight and right in front of the station. Ace has heard of blues and occasional bass in the Gut.

Tom Vandekieft with a 14 lb. blue that took a popping plug at Horton's Point. Photo courtesy of Rocky Point Fishing Stop.

NEW SUFFOLK

At **Capt. Marty's Fishing Station** we learned that Nassau Point and the North Race produced some fair flounder action over the weekend for the few hardy souls that ventured forth in Saturday's rain and Sunday's wind. A few small blacks mixed with the flounders. All the action being on clams and worms.

AQUEBOGUE

Warren's Bait & Tackle reported blacks and porgies in the Sound in good supply when the weather permits anglers to get out. Also, bluefish being trolled off of Horton's Point on umbrella rigs. Some of the fish are teen size. A few flounder starting to show in the bay but best flatfish action continues to be at Orient Point. Boatmen pick a way at bass and blues in the Gut, says Warren.

These jumbo porgies, weighing 2½ and 3 lbs., were taken on a recent charter aboard the "Eclipse" by Myron Curtis.

★NORTH SHORE★

GLEN COVE

GLEN COVE
LADY LIL II
★BOTTOM FISHING★
★ 7:30 AM DAILY ★
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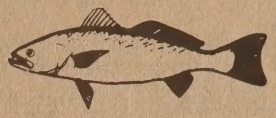

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19' ARISTOCRAFT HARDTOP, 120 OMC. Like new. 1978. All CG equip. $5695. EDDIE'S MARINE. 212-327-3088.

22' 1979 SISU Inboard, lobster canopy hardtop, 4 cyl. Volvo engine, FWC. Fully equipped for sportfishing, loaded with extras. Four flush mount rod holders, automatic Loran C, CB radio, compass. Cuddy cabin with ample storage space and one bunk. Dual battery system. Stern controls and tiller bar. In the water, ready to go. Will demonstrate. Call Ken at 516-728-8566.

1978 MAKO 25' Evinrude 235; total 95 hrs. Complete canvas, CB, depth finder, spotlight, ETC. Cleanest 25 available. $10,900. Weekdays 8-5. 516-582-4566.

30' REPCO Fiberglas jonesport hull boat with 6 cylinder original Palmer engine rebuilt last year. Completely outfitted for professional sportfishing. Hardtop, 2 fish boxes, compass, Sitex white line graph recorder, CB radio, digital depth recorder, rod racks, cabin with one bunk, etc. $15,000. Call John at 516-668-5130. In water, ready to go, will demonstrate.

1975 27' SILVERTON, Fiberglas 220 Crusader; dual stations. Family and Fishing Boat. Two 60-gal. tanks, 2 props.; 2 batteries; flybridge cover; fishing chair. Under 150 hours. Hardly used. $12,500. $12,500. 516-378-3026.

30' 1976 CHRIS CRAFT Tournament Fisherman. Twin engines. Full bridge enclosure; H&C Pressure water. Bimini top; shower. Sleeps 5. Equipped for fishing. Must sell; new boat on order. 516-277-3885/499-8840.

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Al Ristori's Fishing Machine: 1978 MAKO 21/1979 Evinrude 200 w/power trim for sale at end of season. Boat fully equipped and available with or without accessories: VHF and CB Radios; outriggers, downrigger, console cover, etc. In water at Montauk Marine Basin. Come out for demonstration ride. Call: 201-334-8059 or 516-668-3130; or leave message at Montauk Marine Basin, 516-668-5900.

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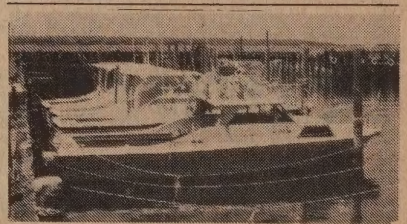
23' 3'' SEACRAFT 1976 Sportfisherman Cuddy. Fully equipped. Twin 115 h.p. Evinrude; SST Props. Very clean. $9495. EDDIE'S MARINE. 212-327-3088.



30' SPORTSCRAFT 1972 Fiberglas; flybridge; Bimini top. Large cockpit; 440 Chrysler inboard; FW cooled, recently rebuilt. Hydraulic steering; 3 depth finders; CB & VHF radios. Outriggers. Built-in stereo player. More. $9500. 516-324-6708.

27' SPORTCRAFT, Flybridge, twin 155 h.p. OMC. Trim tabs, outriggers, VHF radio. Excellent fishing; economical offshore boat. $6500. 516-589-6061.

1979 1979 EVINRUDES 1979 1979
2-$245; 4-$332; 6-$480; 9.9-$630; 15-$714; 25-$860; 35-$960; 50-$1200; 55-$1365; 70-$1578; 85-$1760; 100-$1830; 115-$1890; 140-$1988; 150-$2516; 175-$2596; 200-$2696; 235-$2860. ELECTRA MARINE, 610 Merrick Rd., Lynbrook, NY. 11563. Scott & McCulloch parts. FOB/H. 516-599-3003. We ship anywhere.

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22' CHRIS CRAFT CUTLASS CUDDY, brand new 1979. Private owner must sell at loss. FWC; full canvas; head; compass, etc. BOAT NEVER USED. A good buy. 516-734-5835.

1978 21' STARCRAFT MARINER Center Console with 1978 140 h.p. Evinrude. Also, a 1978 all roller Caulkins trailer and full cover. Used only one season. Easy to trailer and launch. Fast & light. Save $$ on gas. Excellent condition. Asking $5500. 201-838-2764 after 6PM.

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NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

★ BEST BET ★ MIXED BAG

ROCKY POINT

Stan at **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** relayed word that Bob Skinner weighed in a whooping 3½ lb. flounder which he took on a drifted worm at Herod's Point. This is the largest flounder that Stan has ever heard of taken from this area. He described the blackfishing as good with most of the fish running 3 to 4 lbs. with an occasional 6 to 8 pounder mixed in. Best bet for blacks are fiddlers or green crabs. Bluefish still roam the Sound but boatmen have had a difficult time getting out due to the weather.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

From **Ralph's Fishing Station** we were told of pretty good blackfishing on Saturday despite the rain. Bluefish being jigged and trolled in the Sound, weather permitting. Most of the choppers still in the 2 to 4 lb. class. The Harbor has a good supply of small flounder and porgies for those using worm bait.

PORT JEFFERSON

John Caraftis reported from his fishing station that big blues are being taken at the Middle Grounds on diamond jigs whenever the weather cooperates. Good blackfishing at Old Field Point on fiddlers and greens and big porgies continue to be taken in the vicinity of Flax Pond. A few big flounders starting to stir in the Harbor and quite a few short stripers also around.

KINGS PARK

O.K. Bait and Tackle reports lots of 2-4 lb. blues being caught at the mouth of the Nissequogue River on trolled Rebels or tubes. Plenty of flounder in the River if you can't get outside due to the wind. Bob has spotted coot everytime he's been out and advises coot-hunters to call ahead for boat reservations.

HUNTINGTON

Captain Ray of the charter boat **Eclipsed** called and reported there have been plenty of blues around and he is also bagging up with jumbo porgies that are big and fat. Saturday morning's charter took a lot of small blues in the Sound. Sunday's charter for Al Sailler and party of Westbury had a great day. Al had never caught a fish before but on this trip bucktailed an 8 lb. striper followed by a boxful of medium sized blues and humpback porgies. Action was in the Sound even though the wind blew hard. Blues were 4-6 lbers. Porgies ran up to 3 lbs.

Captain Don of the **Ever Ready** asked us to tell you he has stopped sailing for the season and send his thanks to you all for your patronage during the year. Don says he'll see you next season.

George Valentine at **Four Winds Bait & Tackle** said that steady bass action continues at buoy 13, Eaton's Neck. Most of the action is on umbrella rigs trolled on wire for fish averaging 4 to 8 lbs. Occasional larger fish are mixed in. George said that while catches average 10 to 12 fish per boat, some of the local sharpies do much better. On Thursday for example, one local regular put 36 stripers in the box single-handedly. Good blackfishing at Target Rock and Marshall Field and small flounder making an appearance in Huntington Harbor. A few big blues continue to harass bunker in the harbor and blues mixed with the stripers out at Eaton's Neck.

Ronnie Ferrara reported from his tackle shop that Pete Jurge wormed trolled 4 stripers at Marshall Field over the weekend. The fish ran from 5 to 7 lbs. Rocco Aurelliano and Louie Pacione used black umbrellas and double bucktail rigs to put 12 blues and 4 bass to 16 lbs. in the box at Eaton's Neck late last week. Ronnie also knew that Fred Kull and John Keller had bluefish of 15 and 17 lbs. on bunker spoons in the Harbor on Saturday. Good blackfishing at Makamah and 11B. Small flounder now in the Harbors, a few bigger flatties at Target Rock. Good numbers of tom cod in the Harbor.

Jim "Skeet" Wells shows off some of the porgies and blues he landed aboard the Stormy Petrel. Photo courtesy of O.K. Bait Shop.

NORTH SHORE WEST END

★ BEST BET ★ BLACKFISH

COLD SPRING Hbr.

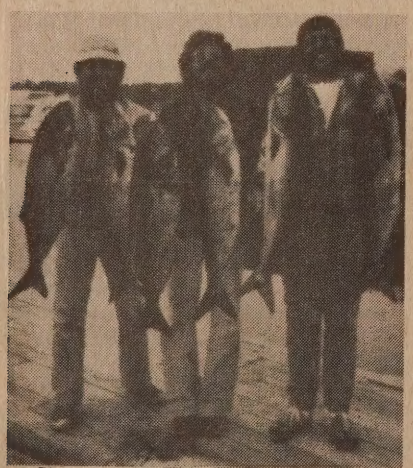
Tom at **Salty's Bait & Tackle** told of pretty good blackfishing at Stehlis Beach, Whitewood Point and Marshall Field. Fiddlers and green crabs are the best bet for the blacks. A lot of flounder in the Harbor along with tom cod which are being taken off of the town docks. Some good bass action on black umbrella rigs along the Cold Spring Harbor Causeway for fish in the 8 to 10 lb. class. Clam chummers have also been scoring in this area.

GLEN COVE

Captain Joe Finke of the **Lady Lil II** has now switched over to blackfish. On Sunday he fished off Stamford, Ct. and had a dynamite first day of the season with high hook being Allen Sacks of Flushing with 36 blacks from rats to 6 lbers. on fiddlers.

CITY ISLAND

Jerry reported from **Jack's Bait & Tackle** that blackfishing is very good at all the local rockpiles. He also named Execution Light and the CBS tower of being two of the more productive tautog spots. Flounder all over the bay on worms and clams. Quite a few school bass along with an occasional teen size striper on small plugs or worms, at Hart's Island.



John Bianco, Jim Smith, and Ron Lapinsky display seven monster blues ranging from 16-21 lbs. The trio used bunker chunks at Execution Light and weighed the fish in at Jack's Bait and Tackle.

FIGHTING CHAIR: **L.I. SOUND** *(Continued from page 5.)*

threats to water quality are overlapping concerns, as is already clear in my testimony so far today. It is impossible to maintain a high recreational profile for the Sound if water quality is negatively affected. We can point to a recent large set of hard clams at the entrance to Huntington Bay, a recently re-opened shellfish bed west of Cold Spring Harbor, possible future shellfish culture through currently developing Department of Environmental Conservation plans for underwater shellfish leasing, and existing oyster farms in Bayville and Northport as indications that Long Island Sound represents an immense and important area for shellfish harvesting. In addition, lobstering is a large activity in Long Island Sound, both commercially and for those residents who enjoy placing a few pots in order to share one of the finest meals that the sea has to offer. Heavy metals and other toxic substances that leach out from dumped dredge spoils threaten not only the quality of the water, but the quality of the food that is produced by that water.

Capping is not the answer in spite of the claims made by some that the practice will seal in pollution and contain the spoils. Capping poses many problems that could circumvent its apparent usefulness as a toxin and spoils containment technology. Studies point out that captains often have a hard time finding the exact dump location. This problem is particularly acute in windy, rough weather. Then, too, even though the dump site may be truly located, winds may push the barge off the target during the operation. Waves and currents also present serious dumping problems even after the cap materials are in the water. Currents and waves can disperse and spread the material while it is settling through the water column and once the cap material has settled it is still vulnerable to shifting during severe storms. Even without the effects of storms, cap materials, as well as the dredge spoils beneath it, may be slowly moved about by prevailing currents causing a subtle shift in the dump site location, thus compounding the difficulty of dumping and containment.

The experiences that we have already had clearly indicate that the toxic materials may pose a threat to the quality of drinking water for some communities on Long Island. The 2.7 cubic yards of dredge materials from New Haven and Stamford Harbors contained, among other toxic substances, the heavy metals of mercury, lead, and arsenic at concentrations up to 1000 parts per million. This level of contamination is about 10,000 times in excess of safety standards in effect from the Environmental Protection Agency. Certainly, these heavy metals will create a toxic environment for benthic organisms. My own recent research with nematodes, protozoa such as foraminifera and ciliates, and algae indicates concentrations of 1000 parts per million for these metals is about 1000 times higher than the maximum level of toleration and continued life. This is true for virtually all of the animals and plants tested. Thus, based upon my research, not only will benthic communities be destroyed at the dump site, but also in the vicinity of the dump site. Although it is impossible at this time to estimate the diameter of the affected area due to incomplete data on tides, currents, and the uncertainty of predicting major storms, it is likely that benthic communities will be negatively affected within a radius of several miles of the actual dump site. Although benthic organisms will be hardest hit, fish populations will also be severely affected via the mechanisms previously mentioned.

The danger to creatures in or on the bottom will perhaps be mirrored by a danger to human life many miles from the dump site. Recent evidence indicates that the flow of subterranean fresh water moves through a natural aquifer that extends from Connecticut and its watershed areas under the Sound and under Long Island. Thus, there is a very real danger that the toxins at the dump site may leach down into the sediment and contaminate a major source of fresh water for Long Island residents, especially on eastern Long Island.

Thus, the Long Island Fisherman and The New York Sportfishing Council speaking for approximately 150,000 people can take only one position on dumping in Long Island Sound. We have always been opposed to it; we are opposed to it now, and we will be opposed to it as long as there exists threats to the marine habits and the species of animals and plants in Long Island Sound and as long as there exists a potential danger to human life. In our opinion, the evidence indicates that these dangers are very real and, therefore, in our opinion, the dumping should be prohibited. To oppose a plan carries with it a responsibility to offer suggestions for alternatives. Our suggestion is a simple one. It seems to us that the burden of solution should rest with those who will benefit from the dredging. We would not object to the dumping of the spoils terrestrially in the backyards of the harbors of origin, although we suspect that they would find such a suggestion to be unthinkable. We wish to go on record as saying to them that dumping the spoils in our backyards also is unthinkable! Thank you for the opportunity to express this information.

SURF REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

As of the moment it would appear that Montauk has the edge over other parts of the Island. Action has been faily consistent for nearly two weeks now with blues, weaks and stripers. Most of the activity has been concentrated up-front although some fish have been taken in the Fort and at Ditch Plains. Quite a few school bass scattered along north shore beaches provide a somewhat encouraging outlook for stripers in the future. Several fairly good year classes seem to be showing their effect. The picture in the Hudson is encouraging from this corner. Strong winds and dirty surf condtions hindered fishing in many parts of the Island for several days but with the weather settling and colder temperatures things should be in peak form by the end of the week.

Any subscribers wishing to submit photos of surf caught fish, please do so. If you would like the photo returned include a stamped self-addressed envelope with it.

SOUTH SHORE: EAST END

From **Johnny's Tackle Shop** in Montauk I was told of several impressive stripers taken last Wednesday night under the Light. Johnny weighed up a 48 lb. bass for Walt Chaikowski. The fish fell for a darter. Whitey Pawolski clicked with a 42 lb. bass on a bottle plug and Johnny added that quite a few other fish in the 15 to 30 lb. class were weighed in also. Saturday night, a regular known as Jack took a 30 pounder from the same rocks. John added that bluefish and weakfish have been mixed with stripers under the light. There was a showing of 3 to 5 lb. bluefish at Ditch Plains over the weekend. Poppers took most of the choppers.

I spoke to Mark Reuchelle who spent Friday night under the light with Phil Holawinski. Mark took bass of 26 and 14 on a yellow darter while Phil put a 22 pounder on the rocks. He also dropped two fish on bottle plugs. Mark said that all of their action was limited to a half hour during the first part of incoming water. After leaving the Light due to difficult fishing conditions, the pair gave Ditch Plains a shot where Mark clicked with a 12 lb. bass.

Thom told me from **Speck's Bait & Tackle** that casters pick a way at a few blues and bass in the teens but that a dirty surf has severly hampered the fishing.

Two friends who fished Shinnecock early Sunday a.m. reported the beach "dead". With dropping water temperatures and cleaner water conditions, this area could come alive any day. It has been a consistent producer for a number of years in mid to late October.

Wally Wolpert of **Buoy 2 Sport Shop** passed along word that his son Wally put bass of 24 and 21 lbs. on the beach at Cedar Thursday p.m. Wally took his fish on Gibbs swimming plugs and added that another caster took a fish that appeared larger than his 24. Wally, Sr. had heard from a couple of sources that bluefish were taken at Democrat the same night. I was unable to get any more info on whatever action occured at Democrat.

SOUTH SHORE: WEST END

From **The Store** at Oak Beach we heard from Ruth that husband Hays took a 25 lb. bass on an eel at Tobay Friday night. Despite this fish Ruth called the weekend activity very slow due to dirty surf conditions.

I fished Tobay early Sunday a.m. along with ten or so other casters. Not a fish was taken up until noon when we left. About two hours before high water some bait moved in along the beach (bunker and small bait) but no fish were in evidence.

From **Cross Bay Bait & Tackle** in Jamaica Bay, John Noehren told me that a few blues and weaks continue to be taken from the North and South Channel Bridges on bunker chunks in the early morning hours.

It appears that some solid fishing is shaping up in the Staten Island area again. Last fall some of the more consistent fishing on the Island took place here. Lenny of **Santo's Sport Shop** gave me several names to emphasize the changing surf scene. John Yaccrino took a 20 lb. striper, Emil Riegi had a 32 pounder, John Mester took 3 bass to 17 lbs., Sal Spurge had a 17 lb. blue, Bill Serowiec a 14½ lb. blue, Bob Glynn a 13 lb. weak, and Rick Knell a 9½ lb. tiderunner. All of these fish were taken on Danny and Atom swimmers. Action has been stretched from Penny's Beach through Cliff St. and down to the South Beach area. Most of the action occured over the weekend. Lenny reminded that casters can pick big blues on bait at Great Kills Park in the early a.m.

NORTH SHORE: WEST END

Jerry told me from **Jack's Tackle Shop** in City Island that Hector Rivera weighed in a 16 lb. blue which he took on a butterfish bait at Orchard Beach. School bass continue to be taken on redfins, Rebels, Tri-Fin eel worms, small bucktails and worms during the evening hours. Jerry mentioned the beach and jetty near the City Island Bridge, the Fort Slocum shore front, and Turtle Cove as being some of the more productive bass spots.

Moving east, I was told by Tom of **Salty's Bait & Tackle** that school bass have been falling to 4½" broken back Rebels along local beaches. Tom has heard of no bluefish action along the beaches in recent days.

In Huntington, George Valentine told me from his **Four Winds Bait & Tackle Shop** that Caumsett State Park continues to produce school bass along with some blues. Best lures have been Tri-Fin eel worms, Redfins, and Rebels. For casters not in possession of the necessary parking permit for Caumsett, George suggested the beach at Crab Meadow. "Plenty of school bass in the area" says George.

NORTH SHORE: EAST END

Big blues, in the 15 to 19 lb. class being taken on bunker chunks and poppers in the early morning hours according to John Caraftis. John said that several area beaches have been productive, among them White's Beach, Miller Place and the Crane's Neck shore.

Stan at the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** said that there has been bass activity along the beach from Rocky Point to Wading River. Casters take fish whenever conditions permit. While most are school fish, Stan did see a 23 pounder taken late last week. Most of the bass, which have been running 5 to 8 lbs., are being taken on Gibbs swimmers, Rebels, Redfins and Tri-Fin eel worms. Some big blues up to 16 lbs. on bunker chunks near the Shoreham power plant. Smaller blues in the 3 to 4 lb. class taken on poppers in the same area.

From **Warren's Bait & Tackle** in Aquebogue we learned of bluefish in the 6 to 12 lb. class being taken on bait along with a few plugged fish at Kenny's Beach and Horton's Point. Warren noted that most of the action is by fishing blind. No fish have been showing, you just have to sit it out with bait or keep plugging away.

Ace from the **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** confirmed the bluefish action along local beaches. He said quite a few fish up to 12 lbs. have been taken on bunker chunks in recent days.

A few bass in the 10 to 15 lb. class on poppers and redfins according to Art White of **A.P. White Bait Shop** in Greenport. Action has been at Orient and Horton's Point in the evenings and early morning hours. Some bluefish also being taken in this area on bait fished on the bottom.

CAPE REPORT

Word from the Cape is that good fishing continues despite the large turnout of anglers. Many fish in the 30 to 50 lb. class being taken on eels at night and plugs in the daytime.

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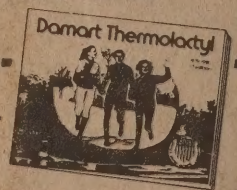

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